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(54) Title: SINGLE POLYPEPTIDE CHAIN BINDING MOLECULES

(57) Abstract

A single polypeptide chain binding molecule which has binding specificity substantially similar to the binding specificity of the light and heavy chain aggregate variable region of an antibody, genetic sequences coding therefor, recombinant DNA methods of producing such molecule and uses for such molecule.

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SINGLE POLYPEPTIDE CHAIN BINDING MOLECULES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This application is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial No. 902,971, filed September 2, 1986, the contents of which are herein fully incorporated by reference.

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to single polypeptide chain binding molecules having the three dimensional folding, and thus the binding ability and specificity, of the variable region of an antibody. Methods of producing these molecules by genetic engineering are also disclosed.

Description of the Background Art

The advent of modern molecular biology and immunology has brought about the possibility of producing large quantities of biologically active materials in highly reproduceable form and with low cost. Briefly, the gene sequence coding for a desired natural protein is isolated, replicated (cloned) and introduced into a foreign host such as a bacterium, a yeast (or other fungi) or a mammalian cell line in culture, with appropriate regulatory control signals. When the signals are activated, the gene is transcribed and translated, and expresses the desired protein. In this manner, such useful biologically active materials as hormones, enzymes or antibodies have been cloned and expressed in foreign hosts.

One of the problems with this approach is that it is limited by the "one gene, one polypeptide chain" principle of molecular biology. In other words, a genetic sequence codes for a single polypeptide chain. Many biologically active polypeptides, however, are aggregates of two or more chains. For example, antibodies are three-dimensional aggregates of two heavy and two light chains. In the same manner, large enzymes such as aspartate transcarbamylase, for example, are aggregates of six catalytic and six regulatory chains, these chains being different. In order to produce such complex materials by recombinant DNA technology in foreign hosts, it becomes necessary to clone and express a gene coding for each one of the different kinds of polypeptide chains. These genes can be expressed in separate hosts. The resulting polypeptide chains from each host would then have to be reaggregated and allowed to refold together in solution. Alternatively, the two or more genes coding for the two or more polypeptide chains of the aggregate could be expressed in the same host simultaneously, so that refolding and reassociation into the native structure with biological activity will occur after expression. The approach, however, necessitates expression of multiple genes, and as indicated, in some cases, in multiple and different hosts. These approaches have proved to be inefficient.

Even if the two or more genes are expressed in the same organism it is quite difficult to get them all expressed in the required amounts.

A classical example of multigene expression to form multimeric polypeptides is the expression by recombinant DNA technology of antibodies. Genes for heavy and light chains have been introduced into ap-

propriate hosts and expressed, followed by reaggrega-
tion of these individual chains into functional anti-
body molecules (see for example Munro, Nature, 312:597
(1984); Morrison, S.L. Science 229:1202 (1985); Oi et
al., BioTechniques 4:214 (1986)); Wood et al., Nature,
314: 446-449 (1985)).

Antibody molecules have two generally recognized
regions, in each of the heavy and light chains. These
regions are the so-called "variable" region which is
responsible for binding to the specific antigen in
question, and the so-called "constant" region which is
responsible for biological effector responses such as
complement binding, etc. The constant regions are not
necessary for antigen binding. The constant regions
have been separated from the antibody molecule, and
biologically active (i.e. binding) variable regions
have been obtained.

The variable regions of an antibody are composed
of a light chain and a heavy chain. Light and heavy
chain variable regions have been cloned and expressed
in foreign hosts, and maintain their binding ability
(Moore et al, European Patent Publication 0088994
(published September 21, 1983)).

Further, it is by now well established that all
antibodies of a certain class and their Fab fragments
whose structures have been determined by X-ray crys-
tallography, even when from different species, show
closely similar variable regions despite large differ-
ences in the hypervariable segments. The immunoglo-
bulin variable region seems to be tolerant toward
mutations in the combining loops. Therefore, other
than in the hypervariable regions, most of the so

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called "variable" regions of antibodies, which are
defined by both heavy and light chains, are in fact
quite constant in their three dimensional arrangement.
See, for example, Huber, R., "Structural Basis for
Antigen-Antibody Recognition," Science, 233:702-703
(1986).

It would be very efficient if one could produce
single polypeptide-chain molecules which have the same
biological activity as the multiple chain aggregates
such as, for example, multiple chain antibody aggre-
gates or enzyme aggregates. Given the "one gene-one-
polypeptide chain" principle, such single chain mole-
cules would be more readily produceable, and would not
necessitate multiple hosts or multiple genes in the
cloning and expression. In order to accomplish this,
it is first necessary to devise a method for generat-
ing single chain structures from two-chain aggregate
structures, wherein the single chain will retain the
three-dimensional folding of the separate natural ag-
gregate of two polypeptide chains.

While the art has discussed the study of proteins
in three dimensions, and has suggested modifying their
architecture (see, for example, the article "Protein
Architecture: Designing from the Ground Up," by Van
Brunt, J., BioTechnology, 4: 277-283 (April, 1986)),
the problem of generating single chain structures from
multiple chain structures, wherein the single chain
structure will retain the three-dimensional architec-
ture of the multiple chain aggregate, has not been
satisfactorily addressed.

Given that methods for the preparation of genetic
sequences, their replication, their linking to expres-

sion control regions, formation of vectors therewith and transformation of appropriate hosts are well understood techniques, it would indeed be greatly advantageous to be able to produce, by genetic engineering, single polypeptide chain binding proteins having the characteristics and binding ability of multi chain variable regions of antibody molecules.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention starts with a computer based system and method to determine chemical structures for converting two naturally aggregated but chemically separated light and heavy polypeptide chains from an antibody variable region into a single polypeptide chain which will fold into a three dimensional structure very similar to the original structure made of the two polypeptide chains.

The single polypeptide chain obtained from this method can then be used to prepare a genetic sequence coding therefor. The genetic sequence can then be replicated in appropriate hosts, further linked to control regions, and transformed into expression hosts, wherein it can be expressed. The resulting single polypeptide chain binding protein, upon refolding, has the binding characteristics of the aggregate of the original two (heavy and light) polypeptide chains of the variable region of the antibody.

The invention therefore comprises:

A single polypeptide chain binding molecule which has binding specificity substantially similar to the binding specificity of the light and heavy chain aggregate variable region of an antibody.

The invention also comprises genetic sequences
coding for the above mentioned single polypeptide
chain, cloning and expression vectors containing such
genetic sequences, hosts transformed with such vec-
tors, and methods of production of such polypeptides
by expression of the underlying genetic sequences in
such hosts.

The invention also extends to uses for the binding
proteins, including uses in diagnostics, therapy, in
vivo and in vitro imaging, purifications, and biosen-
sors. The invention also extends to the single chain
binding molecules in immobilized form, or in detect-
ably labelled forms for utilization in the above men-
tioned diagnostic, imaging, purification or biosensor
applications. It also extends to conjugates of the
single polypeptide chain binding molecules with thera-
puetic agents such as drugs or specific toxins, for
delivery to a specific site in an animal, such as a
human patient.

Essentially all of the uses that the prior art has
envisioned for monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies, or
for variable region fragments thereof, can be con-
sidered for the molecules of the present invention.

The advantages of single chain over conventional
antibodies are smaller size, greater stability and
significantly reduced cost. The smaller size of sin-
gle chain antibodies may reduce the body's immunologic
reaction and thus increase the safety and efficacy of
therapeutic applications. Conversely, the single
chain antibodies could be engineered to be highly an-
tigenic. The increased stability and lower cost per-
mits greater use in biosensors and protein purifica-

tion systems. Because it is a smaller and simpler protein, the single chain antibody is easier to further modify by protein engineering so as to improve both its binding affinity and its specificity. Improved affinity will increase the sensitivity of diagnosis and detection and detection systems while improved specificity will reduce the number of false positives observed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention as defined in the claims can be better understood with reference to the text and to the following drawings, as follows:

Figure 1 is a block diagram of the hardware aspects of the serial processor mode of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a block diagram of an alternate embodiment of the hardware aspects of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a block diagram of the three general steps of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a block diagram of the steps in the site selection step in the single linker embodiment.

Figure 5A is a schematic two dimensional simplified representation of the light chain L and heavy chain H of two naturally aggregated antibody variable region F_v polypeptide chains used to illustrate the site selection process.

Figure 5B is a two dimensional representation of the three dimensional relationship of the two aggregated polypeptide chains showing the light chain L (----) and the heavy chain H (-) of the variable region of one antibody.

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Figure 6A is a simplified two dimensional schematic diagram of the two polypeptide chains showing the location of the residue Tau 1 and the residue Sigma 1.

Figure 6B is a two dimensional representation of the actual relationship of the two polypeptide chains showing the residue Tau 1 and the residue Sigma 1.

Figure 7 shows in very simplified schematic way the concept of the direction linkers that are possible between the various possible sites on the light chain L and the heavy chain H in the residue Tau 1 and residue Sigma 1 respectively.

Figure 8A is a two dimensional simplified schematic diagram of a single chain antibody linking together two separate chains (($\underline{\text{Heavy}}$) and ($\underline{\text{light}}$)) by linker 1 (----) to produce a single chain antibody.

Figure 8B is a two dimensional representation showing a single chain antibody produced by linking two aggregated polypeptide chains using linker 1.

Figure 9 shows a block diagram of candidate selection for correct span.

Figure 10 shows a block diagram of candidate selection for correct direction from N terminal to C terminal.

Figure 11 shows a comparison of direction of a gap to direction of a candidate.

Figure 12 shows a block diagram of candidate selection for correct orientation at both ends.

Figure 13 shows a block diagram of selection of sites for the two-linker embodiment.

Figure 14 shows examples of rules by which candidates may be ranked.

Figure 15A shows a two-dimensional simplified representation of the variable domain of an Fv light chain, L, and the variable domain of an Fv heavy chain, H, showing the first two sites to be linked.

Figure 15B shows a two-dimensional representation of the three-dimensional relationships between the variable domain of an Fv light chain, L, and the variable domain of an Fv heavy chain, H, showing the regions in which the second sites to be linked can be found and the linker between the first pair of sites.

Figure 16A shows the two-dimensional simplified representation of the variable domain of an Fv light chain, L, and the variable domain of an Fv heavy chain, H, showing the regions in which the second sites to be linked can be found and the linker between the first pair of sites.

Figure 16B shows the two-dimensional representation of the three-dimensional relationships between the variable domain of an Fv light chain, L, and the variable domain of an Fv heavy chain, H, showing the regions in which the second sites to be linked can be found and the linker between the first pair of sites.

Figure 17A shows the two-dimensional simplified representation of the variable domain of an Fv light chain, L, and the variable domain of an Fv heavy chain, H, showing the second linker and the portions of the native protein which are lost.

Figure 17B shows the two-dimensional representation of the three-dimensional relationships between the variable domain of an Fv light chain, L, and the variable domain of an Fv heavy chain, H, showing the second linker and the portions of native protein which are lost.

Figure 18 shows the two-dimensional simplified representation of the variable domain of an Fv light chain, L, and the variable domain of an Fv heavy chain, H, showing the complete construction.

Figure 19 shows a block diagram of the parallel processing mode of the present invention.

Figure 20A shows five pieces of molecular structure. The uppermost segment consists of two peptides joined by a long line. The separation between the peptides is 12.7 A. The first C of each peptide lies on the X-axis. The two dots indicate the standard reference point in each peptide.

Below the gap are four linker candidates (labeled 1,2,3 & 4), represented by a line joining the alpha carbons. In all cases, the first and penultimate alpha carbons are on lines parallel to the X-axis, spaced 8.0 A apart. Note that the space between dots in linker 1 is much shorter than in the gap.

Figure 20B shows the initial peptides of linkers 2, 3, and 4 which have been aligned with the first peptide of the gap. For clarity, the linkers have been translated vertically to their original positions.

The vector from the first peptide in the gap to the second peptide in the gap lies along the X-axis, a corresponding vector for linkers 3 and 4 also lies along the X-axis. Linker 2, however, has this vector pointing up and to the right, thus linker 2 is rejected.

Figure 20C shows the ten atoms which compose the initial and final peptides of linkers 3 and 4, which have been least-squares fit to the corresponding atoms from the gap. These peptides have been drawn in.

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Note that in the gap and in linker 4 the final peptide points down and lies more-or-less in the plane of the paper. In linker 3, however, this final peptide points down and to the left and is twisted about 90 degrees so that the carbonyl oxygen points toward the viewer. Thus linker 3 is rejected.

Sections B and C are stereo diagrams which may be viewed with the standard stereo viewer provided.

Figure 21 shows the nucleotide sequence and translation of the sequence for the heavy chain of a mouse anti bovine growth hormone (BGH) monoclonal antibody.

Figure 22 shows the nucleotide sequence and translation of the sequence for the light chain of the same monoclonal antibody as that shown in Figure 21.

Figure 23 is a plasmid restriction map containing the variable heavy chain sequence (pGX3772) and that containing the variable light sequence (pGX3773) shown in figures 21 and 22.

Figure 24 shows construction TRY40 comprising the nucleotide sequence and its translation sequence of a single polypeptide chain binding protein prepared according to the methods of the invention.

Figure 25 shows a restriction map of the expression vector pGX3776 carrying a single chain binding protein, the sequence of which is shown in Figure 24. In this and subsequent plasmid maps (Figures 27 and 29) the hashed bar represents the promoter O_L/P_R sequence and the solid bar represents heavy chain variable region sequences.

Figure 26 shows the sequences of TRY61, another single chain binding protein of the invention.

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Figure 27 shows expression plasmid pGX4904 carrying the genetic sequence shown in Figure 26.

Figure 28 shows the sequences of TRY59, another single chain binding protein of the invention.

Figure 29 shows the expression plasmid pGX 4908 carrying the genetic sequence shown in Figure 28.

Figures 30A, 30B, 30C, and 30D (stereo) are explained in detail in Example 1. They show the design and construction of double linked single chain antibody TRY40.

Figures 31A and 31B (stereo) are explained in detail in Example 2. They show the design and construction of single linked single chain antibody TRY61.

Figures 32A and 32B (stereo) are explained in detail in Example 3. They show the design and construction of single linked single chain antibody TRY59.

Figure 33 is explained in Example 4 and shows the sequence of TRY104b.

Figure 34 shows a restriction map of the expression vector pGX4910 carrying a single linker construction, the sequence of which is shown in Figure 33.

Figure 35 shows the assay results for BGH binding activity wherein strip one represents TRY61 and strip two represents TRY40.

Figure 36 is explained in Example 4 and shows the results of competing the F_{ab} portion of 3C2 monoclonal with TRY59 protein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

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I.   General Overview

The present invention starts with a computer based
system and method for determining and displaying pos-
sible chemical structures (linkers) for converting two
naturally aggregated but chemically separate heavy and
light (H and L) polypeptide chains from the variable
region of a given antibody into a single polypeptide
chain which will fold into a three dimensional struc-

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ture very similar to the original structure made of two polypeptide chains. The original structure is referred to hereafter as "native protein."

The first general step of the three general design steps of the present invention involves selection of plausible sites to be linked. In the case of a single linker, criteria are utilized to select a plausible site on each of the two polypeptide chains (H and L in the variable region) which will result in 1) a minimum loss of residues from the native protein chains and 2) a linker of minimum number of amino acids consistent with the need for stability. A pair of sites defines a _gap_ to be bridged or linked.

A two-or-more-linker approach is adopted when a single linker can not achieve the two stated goals. In both the single-linker case and the two-or-more-linker case, more than one gap may be selected for use in the second general step.

The second general step of the present invention involves examining a data base to determine possible linkers to fill the plausible gaps selected in the first general step, so that candidates can be enrolled for the third general step. Specifically, a data base contains a large number of amino acid sequences for which the three-dimensional structure is known. In the second general step, this data base is examined to find which amino acid sequences can bridge the gap or gaps to create a plausible one-polypeptide structure which retains most of the three dimensional features of the native (_i.e._ original aggregate) variable region molecule. The testing of each possible linker proceeds in three general substeps. The first general substep utilizes the length of the possible candidate.

Specifically, the span or length (a scalar quantity)
of the candidate is compared to the span of each of
the gaps. If the difference between the length of the
candidate and the span of any one of the gaps is less
than a selected quantity, then the present invention
proceeds to the second general substep with respect to
this candidate.   Figure 20A shows one gap and four
possible linkers. The first linker fails the first
general substep because its span is quite different
from the span of the gap.

In the second general substep, called the direc-
tion substep, the initial peptide of the candidate is
aligned with the initial peptide of each gap. Speci-
fically, a selected number of atoms in the initial
peptide of the candidate are rotated and translated as
a rigid body to best fit the corresponding atoms in
the initial peptide of each gap. The three dimension-
al vector (called the direction of the linker) from
the initial peptide of the candidate linker to the
final peptide of the candidate linker is compared to
the three dimensional vector (call the direction of
the gap) from the initial peptide of each gap to the
final peptide of the same gap. If the ends of these
two vectors come within a preselected distance of each
other, the present invention proceeds to the third
general substep of the second general step with re-
spect to this candidate linker.

Figure 20B shows one gap and three linkers. All
the linkers have the correct span and the initial pep-
tides have been aligned. The second linker fails the
second general substep because its direction is quite
different from that of the gap; the other two linkers
are carried forward to the third general substep of
the second general step.

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In the third general substep of the second design
of the step of the present invention, the orientations
of the terminal peptides of each linker are compared
to the orientations of the terminal peptides of each
gap. Specifically, a selected number of atoms (3, 4,
or 5, 5 in the prefered embodiment) from the initial
peptide of the candidate plus the same selected number
of atoms (3, 4, or 5; 5 in the prefered embodiment)
from the final-peptide of the candidate are taken as a
rigid body. The corresponding atoms from one of the
gaps (viz 5 from the initial peptide and 5 from the
final peptide) are taken as a second rigid body.
These two rigid bodies are superimposed by a least-
squares fit. If the error for this fit is below some
preselected value, then the candidate passes the third
general substep of the second general step and is en-
rolled for the third general step of the present in-
vention. If the error is greater than or equal to the
preselected value, the next gap is tested. When all
gaps have been tested without finding a sufficiently
good fit, the candidate is abandoned.

The third general step of the present invention
results in the ranking of the linker candidates from
most plausible to least plausible. The most plausible
candidate is the fragment that can bridge the two
plausible sites of one of the gaps to form a single
polypeptide chain, where the bridge will least distort
the resulting three dimensional folding of the single
polypeptide chain from the natural folding of the ag-
gregate of the two originally chemically separate
chains.

In this third general step of the present inven-
tion, an expert operator uses an interactive computer-
graphics approach to rank the linker candidates from

most plausible to least plausible. This ranking is done by observing the interactions between the linker candidate with all retained portions of the native protein. A set of rules are used for the ranking. These expert system rules can be built into the system so that the linkers are displayed only after they have satisfied the expert system rules that are utilized.

The present invention can be programmed so that certain expert rules are utilized as a first general substep in the third general step to rank candidates and even eliminate unsuitable candidates before visual inspection by an expert operator, which would be the second general substep of the third general step. These expert rules assist the expert operator in ranking the candidates from most plausible to least plausible. These expert rules can be modified based on experimental data on linkers produced by the system and methods of the present invention.

The most plausible candidate is a genetically producible single polypeptide chain binding molecule which has a very significantly higher probability (a million or more as compared to a random selection) of folding into a three dimensional structure very similar to the original structure made of the heavy and light chains of the antibody variable region than would be produced if random selection of the linker was done. In this way, the computer based system and method of the present invention can be utilized to engineer single polypeptide chains by using one or more linkers which convert naturally aggregated but chemically separated polypeptide chains into the desired single chain.

The elected candidate offers to the user a linked chain structure having a very significantly increased

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probability of proper folding than would be obtained
using a random selection process. This means that the
genetic engineering aspect of creating the desired
single polypeptide chain is significantly reduced,
since the number of candidates that have to be gene-
tically engineered in practice is reduced by a corres-
ponding amount. The most plausible candidate can be
used to genetically engineer an actual molecule.

The parameters of the various candidates can be
stored for later use. They can also be provided to
the user either visually or recorded on a suitable
media (paper, magnetic tape, color slides, etc.). The
results of the various steps utilized in the design
process can also be stored for later use or examina-
tion.

The design steps of the present invention operate
on a conventional minicomputer system having storage
devices capable of storing the amino acid sequence-
structure data base, the various application programs
utilized and the parameters of the possible linker
candidates that are being evaluated.

The minicomputer CPU is connected by a suitable
serial processor structure to an interactive computer-
graphics display system. Typically, the interactive
computer-graphics display system comprises a display
terminal with resident three-dimensional application
software and associated input and output devices, such
as X/Y plotters, position control devices (potentio-
meters, an x-y tablet, or a mouse), and keyboard.

The interactive computer-graphics display system
allows the expert operator to view the chemical struc-
tures being evaluated in the design process of the

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present invention. Graphics and programs are used to
select the gaps (Gen. Step 1), and to rank candidates
(Gen. Step 3). Essentially, it operates in the same
fashion for the single linker embodiment and for the
two or more linker embodiments.

For example, during the first general step of the
present invention, the computer-graphics interactive
display system allows the expert operator to visually
display the two naturally aggregated but chemically
separate polypeptide chains. Using three dimensional
software resident in the computer-graphics display
system, the visual representation of the two separate
polypeptide chains can be manipulated as desired. For
example, the portion of the chain(s) being viewed can
be magnified electronically, and such magnification
can be performed in a zoom mode. Conversely, the im-
age can be reduced in size, and this reduction can
also be done in a reverse zoom mode. The position of
the portion of the molecule can be translated, and the
displayed molecule can be rotated about any one of the
three axes (x, y and z). Specific atoms in the chain
can be selected with an electronic pointer. Selected
atoms can be labeled with appropriate text. Specific
portions of native protein or linker can be identified
with color or text or brightness. Unwanted portions
of the chain can be erased from the image being dis-
played so as to provide the expert operator with a
visual image that represents only a selected aspect of
the chain(s). Atoms selected by pointing or by name
can be placed at the center of the three dimensional
display; subsequent rotation uses the selected atom as
the origin. These and other display aspects provide

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the expert operator with the ability to visually represent portions of the chains which increase the ability to perform the structural design process.

One of the modes of the present invention utilizes a serial computational architecture. This architecture using the present equipment requires approximately four to six hours of machine and operator time in order to go through the various operations required for the three general steps for a particular selection of gaps. Obviously, it would be desirable to significantly reduce the time since a considerable portion thereof is the time it takes for the computer system to perform the necessary computational steps.

An alternate embodiment of the present invention utilizes a parallel processing architecture. This parallel processing architecture significantly reduces the time required to perform the necessary computational steps. A hypercube of a large number of nodes can be utilized so that the various linkers that are possible for the selected sites can be rapidly presented to the expert system operator for evaluation.

Since there are between 200 and 300 known protein structures, the parallel processing approach can be utilized. There currently are computers commercially available that have as many as 1,024 computing nodes.

Using a parallel processing approach, the data base of observed peptide structures can be divided into as many parts as there are computing nodes. For example, if there are structures for 195 proteins with 219 amino acids each, one would have structures for 195x218 dipeptides, 195x217 tripeptides, 195x216 tetrapeptides, etc. One can extract all peptides up to

some length n. For example, if n were 30, one would have 195x30x204 peptides. Of course, proteins vary in length, but with 100 to 400 proteins of average length 200 (for example), and for peptide linkers up to length 30 amino acids (or any other reasonable number), one will have between 1,000,000 and 4,000,000 peptide structures. Once the peptides have been extracted and labeled with the protein from which they came, one is free to divide all the peptides as evenly as possible among the available computing nodes.

The parallel processing mode operates as follows. The data base of known peptides is divided among the available nodes. Each gap is sent to all the nodes. Each node takes the gap and tests it against those peptides which have been assigned to it and returns information about any peptides which fit the gap and therefore are candidate linkers. As the testing for matches between peptides and gaps proceeds independently in each node, the searching will go faster by a factor equal to the number of nodes.

A first embodiment of the present invention utilizes a single linker to convert the naturally aggregated but chemically separate heavy and light chains into a single polypeptide chain which will fold into a three dimensional structure very similar to the original structure made of two polypeptide chains.

A second embodiment utilizes two or more linkers to convert the two heavy and light chains into the desired single polypeptide chain. The steps involved in each of these embodiments utilizing the present invention are illustrated in the explanation below.

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Once the correct amino acid sequence for a single
chain binding protein has been defined by the computer
assisted methodology, it is possible, by methods well
known to those with skill in the art, to prepare an
underlying genetic sequence coding therefor.

In preparing this genetic sequence, it is possible
to utilize synthetic DNA by synthesizing the entire
sequence de novo. Alternatively, it is possible to
obtain cDNA sequences coding for certain preserved
portions of the light and heavy chains of the desired
antibody, and splice them together by means of the
necessary sequence coding for the peptide linker, as
described.

Also by methods known in the art, the resulting
sequence can be amplified by utilizing well known
cloning vectors and well known hosts. Furthermore,
the amplified sequence, after checking for correct-
ness, can be linked to promoter and terminator sig-
nals, inserted into appropriate expression vectors,
and transformed into hosts such as procaryotic or eu-
caryotic hosts. Bacteria, yeasts (or other fungi) or
mammalian cells can be utilized. Upon expression,
either by itself or as part of fusion polypeptides, as
will otherwise be known to those of skill in the art,
the single chain binding protein is allowed to refold
in physiological solution, at appropriate conditions
of pH, ionic strength, temperature, and redox poten-
tial, and purified by standard separation procedures.
These would include chromatography in its various dif-
ferent types, known to those with skill in the art.

The thus obtained purified single chain binding
protein can be utilized by itself, in detectably la-

belled form, in immobilized form, or conjugated to
drugs or other appropriate therapeutic agents, in
diagnostic, imaging, biosensors, purifications, and
therapeutic uses and compositions. Essentially all
uses envisioned for antibodies or for variable region
fragments thereof can be considered for the molecules
of the present invention.

II.   Hardware and Software Environment

A block diagram of the hardware aspects of the
present invention is found in Figure 1. A central pro-
cessing unit (CPU) 102 is connected to a first bus
(designated massbus 104) and to a second bus (desig-
nated Unibus 106). A suitable form for CPU 102 is a
model Vax 11/780 made by Digital Equipment Corporation
of Maynard, Massachusetts. Any suitable type of CPU,
however, can be used.

Bus 104 connects CPU 102 to a plurality of storage
devices. In the best mode, these storage devices in-
clude a tape drive unit 106. The tape drive unit 106
can be used, for example, to load into the system the
data base of the amino acid sequences whose three
dimensional structures are known. A suitable form for
tape drive 106 is a Digital Equipment Corporation mod-
el TU 78 drive, which operates at 125 inches per sec-
ond, and has a 1600-6250 bit per inch (BPI) dual capa-
bility. Any suitable type of tape drive can be used,
however.

Another storage device is a pair of hard disk
units labeled generally by reference numeral 108. A
suitable form for disk drive 108 comprises two Digital
Equipment Corporation RmO5 disk drives having, for

example, 256 Mbytes of storage per disk. Another disk
drive system is also provided in the serial processor
mode and is labeled by reference numeral 110. This
disk drive system is also connected to CPU 102 by bus
104. A suitable form for the disk system 110 compris-
es three Digital Equipment Corporation model Ra 81
hard disk drives having, for example, 450 Mbytes of
storage per disk.

Dynamic random access memory is also provided by a
memory stage 112 also connected to CPU 102 by bus 104.
Any suitable type of dynamic memory storage device can
be used. In the serial processor mode, the memory is
made up of a plurality of semi- conductor storage de-
vices found in a DEC model Ecc memory unit. Any suit-
able type of dynamic memory can be employed.

The disk drives 108 and 110 store several differ-
ent blocks of information. For example, they store
the data base containing the amino acid sequences and
structures that are read in by the tape drive 106.
They also store the application software package re-
quired to search the data base in accordance with the
procedures of the present invention. They also store
the documentation and executables of the software.
The hypothetical molecules that are produced and
structurally examined by the present invention are
represented in the same format used to represent the
protein structures in the data base. Using this for-
mat, these hypothetical molecules are also stored by
the disk drives 108 and 110 for use during the struc-
tural design process and for subsequent use after the
process has been completed.

A Digital Equipment Corporation VAX/VMS DEC oper-
ating system allows for multiple users and assures
file system integrity. It provides virtual memory,
which relieves the programer of having to worry about
the amount of memory that is used. Initial software
was developed under versions 3.0 to 3.2 of the VAX/VMS
operating system. The serial processor mode currently
is running on version 4.4. DEC editors and FORTRAN
compiler were utilized.

The CPU 102 is connected by Bus 106 to a multi-
plexer 114. The multiplexer allows a plurality of
devices to be connected to the CPU 102 via Bus 106. A
suitable form for multiplexer 114 is a Digital Equip-
ment Corporation model Dz 16 terminal multiplexer. In
the preferred embodiment, two of these multiplexers
are used. The multiplexer 114 supports terminals (not
shown in Figure 1) and the serial communications (at
19.2 Kbaud, for example) to the computer-graphics dis-
play system indicated by the dash lined box 116.

The computer-graphics display system 116 includes
an electronics stage 118. The electronic stage 118 is
used for receiving the visual image prepared by CPU
102 and for displaying it to the user on a display
(typically one involving color) 120. The electronic
stage 118 in connection with the associated subsystems
of the computer-graphics display system 116 provide
for local control of specific functions, as described
below. A suitable form of the electronics system 118
is a model PS 320 made by Evans & Sutherland Corp. of
Salt Lake, Utah. A suitable form for the display 120
is either a 25 inch color monitor or a 19 inch color
monitor from Evans & Sutherland.

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Dynamic random access memory 122 is connected to the electronic stage 118. Memory 122 allows the electronic system 118 to provide the local control of the image discussed below. In addition, a keyboard 124 of conventional design is connected to the electronic stage 118, as is an x/y tablet 126 and a plurality of dials 128. The keyboard 124, x/y tablet 126, and dials 128 in the serial processor mode are also obtained from Evans & Sutherland.

The computer generated graphics system 116, as discussed above, receives from CPU 102 the image to be displayed. It provides local control over the displayed image so that specific desired user initiated functions can be performed, such as:

(1) zoom (so as to increase or decrease the size of the image being displayed;

(2) clipping (where the sides, front or back of the image being displayed are removed);

(3) intensity depth queing (where objects further away from the viewer are made dimmer so as to provide a desired depth effect in the image being displayed);

(4) translation of the image in any of the three axes of the coordinate system utilized to plot the molecules being displayed;

(5) rotation in any of the three directions of the image being displayed;

(6) on/off control of the logical segments of the picture. For example, a line connecting the alpha carbons of the native protein might be one logical segment; labels on some or all of the residues of the native protein might be a second logical segment; a trace of the alpha carbons of the linker(s) might be a

third segment; and a stick figure connecting Carbon,
Nitrogen, Oxygen, and Sulphur atoms of the linker(s)
and adjacent residue of the native protein might be a
fourth logical segment. The user seldom wants to see
all of these at once; rather the operator first be-
comes oriented by viewing the first two segments at
low magnification. Then the labels are switched off
and the linker carbon trace is turned on. Once the
general features of the linker are seen, the operator
zooms to higher magnification and turns on the seg-
ments which hold more detail;

(7) selection of atoms in the most detailed logi-
cal segment. Despite the power of modern graphics,
the operator can be overwhelmed by too much detail at
once. Thus the operator will pick one atom and ask to
see all amino acids within some radius of that atom,
typically 6 Angstroms, but other radii can be used.
The user may also specify that certain amino acids
will be included in addition to those that fall within
the specified radius of the selected atom;

(8) changing of the colors of various portions of
the image being displayed so as to indicate to the
viewer particular information using visual queing.

As stated above, the serial processor mode of the
present invention currently is running the application
software on version 4.4 of the Vax/Vms operating sys-
tem used in conjunction with CPU 102. The applica-
tion programs were programmed using the FLECS (FORTRAN
Language with Extended Control Sections) programming
language written in 1974 by Terry Beyer of the Univer-
sity of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. FLECS is a FORTRAN
preprocessor, which allows more logical programming.

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All of the code used in the serial processor mode was developed in FLECS. It can be appreciated, however, that the present invention encompasses other operating systems and programming languages.

The macromolecules displayed on color display 120 of the computer-graphics display system 116 utilize an extensively modified version of version 5.6 of FRODO. FRODO is a program for displaying and manipulating macromolecules. FRODO was written by T.A. Jones at Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry, Munich, West Germany, for building or modeling in protein crystal-lography. FRODO version 5.6 was modified so as to be driven by command files; programs were then written to create the command files. It is utilized by the elec-tronic stage 118 to display and manipulate images on the ·color display 120. Again, any suitable type of program can be used for displaying and manipulating the macromolecules, the coordinates of which are pro-vided to the computer-graphics display system 116 by the CPU 102.

Design documentation and memos were written using PDL (Program Design Language) from Caine, Farber & Gordon of Pasadena, California. Again, any suitable type of program can be used for the design documents and memos.

Figure 2 shows a block diagram for an improved version of the hardware system of the present inven-tion. Like numbers refer to like items of Figure 1. Only the differences between the serial processor mode system of Figure 1 and the improved system of Figure 2 are discussed below.

The CPU 102' is the latest version of the Vax 11/780 from Digital Equipment Corporation. The latest processor from DEC in the VAX product family is approximately ten times faster than the version shown in the serial processor mode of Figure 1.

Instead of the two Rm05 disk drives 108 of Figure 1, the embodiment of Figure 2 utilizes five RA 81 disk drive units 110'. This is to upgrade the present system to more state of the art disk drive units, which provide greater storage capability and faster access.

Serial processor 106 is connected directly to the electronic stage 118' of the computer-graphics display system 116. The parallel interface in the embodiment of Figure 2 replaces the serial interface approach of the serial processor mode of Figure 1. This allows for faster interaction between CPU 102' and electronic stage 118' so as to provide faster data display to the expert operator.

Disposed in front of color display 120 is a stereo viewer 202. A suitable form for stereo viewer 202 is made by Terabit, Salt Lake City, Utah. Stereo viewer 202 would provide better 3-D perception to the expert operator than can be obtained presently through rotation of the molecule.

In addition, this embodiment replaces the FRODO macromolecule display programs with a program designed to show a series of related hypothetical molecules. This newer program performs the operations more quickly so that the related hypothetical molecules can be presented to the expert operator in a short enough time that makes examination less burdensome on the operator.

The programs can be modified so as to cause the
present invention to eliminate candidates in the sec-
ond general step where obvious rules have been vio-
lated by the structures that are produced. For exam-
ple, one rule could be that if an atom in a linker
comes closer than one Angstrom to an atom in the na-
tive structure the candidate would be automatically
eliminated.

In addition, the surface accessibility of mole-
cules could be determined and a score based on the
hydrophobic residues in contact with the solvent could
be determined. After the hydrophobic residues have
been calculated, the candidates could be ranked so
that undesired candidates could automatically be elim-
inated. The protein is modeled in the present inven-
tion without any surrounding matter. Proteins almost
always exist in aqueous solution; indeed, protein
crystals contain between 20% and 90% water and dis-
solved salts which fill the space between the protein
molecules. Certain kinds of amino acids have side-
chains which make favorable interactions with aqueous
solutions (serine, threonine, arginine, lysine, histi-
dine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, proline, aspara-
gine, and glutamine) and are termed hydrophilic.
Other amino acids have side chains which are apolar
and make unfavorable interactions with water (phenyla-
lanine, tryptophan, leucine, isoleucine, valine, meth-
ionine, and tyrosine) and are termed hydrophobic. In
natural proteins, hydrophilic amino acids are almost
always found on the surface, in contact with solvent;
hydrophobic amino acids are almost always inside the
protein in contact with other hydrophobic amino acids.

The remaining amino acids (alanine, glycine, and cys-
teine) are found both inside proteins and on their
surfaces. The designs of the present invention should
resemble natural proteins as much as possible, so hy-
drophobic residues are placed inside and hydrophilic
residues are placed outside as much as possible.

Programs could be utilized to calculate an energy
for each hypothetical structure. In addition, pro-
grams could make local adjustments to the hypothetical
molecules to minimize the energy. Finally, molecular
dynamics could be used to identify particularly un-
stable parts of the hypothetical molecule. Although
existing programs could calculate a nominal energy for
each hypothetical structure, it has not yet been de-
monstrated that such calculations can differentiate
between sequences which will fold and those that will
not. Energy minimization could also be accomplished
with extant programs, but energy minimization also can
not differentiate between sequences which will fold
and those that will not. Molecular dynamics simula-
tions currently cannot be continued long enough to
simulate the actual folding or unfolding of a protein
and so cannot distinguish between stable and unstable
molecules.

Two megabytes of storage 128' in the computer
generated display system 116 is added so that several
different molecules can be stored at the display
level. These molecules then can be switched back and
forth on the color display 120 so that the expert
operator can sequentially view them while making ex-
pert decisions. The parallel interface that is shown
in Figure 2 would allow the coordinates to be trans-

ferred faster from the CPU 102' to the electronics
stage 118' of the computer generated display system
116.

The parallel processing architecture embodiment of
the present invention is described below in Section V.
This parallel architecture embodiment provides even
faster analysis and display.

III. Single Linker Embodiment

This first embodiment of the present invention
determines and displays possible chemical structures
for using a single linker to convert the naturally
aggregated but chemically separate heavy and light
polypeptide chains into a single polypeptide chain
which will fold into a three dimensional structure
very similar to the original structure made of two
polypeptide chains.

A. Plausible Site Selection

There are two main goals of the plausible site
selection step 302 of the present invention shown in
very generalized block diagram form in Figure 3. The
first goal is to select a first plausible site on the
first chain that is the minimum distance from the sec-
ond plausible site on the second chain. The first
point on the first chain and the second point on the
second chain comprise the plausible site.

The second goal of the site selection is to select
plausible sites that will result in the least loss of
native protein. Native protein is the original pro-
tein composed of the two aggregated polypeptide chains
of the variable region. It is not chemically possible
to convert two chains to one without altering some of

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the amino acids. Even if only one amino acid was add-
ed between the carboxy terminal of the first domain
and the amino terminal of the second domain, the char-
ges normally present at these termini would be lost.
In the variable regions of antibodies, the terminii of
the H and L chains are not very close together. Hypo-
thetical linkers which join the carboxy terminus of
one chain to the amino terminus of the other do not
resemble the natural variable region structures. Al-
though such structures are not impossible, it is more
reasonable to cut away small parts of the native pro-
tein so that compact linkers which resemble the native
protein will span the gap. Many natural proteins are
known to retain their structure when one or more resi-
dues are removed from either end.

In the present embodiment, only a single linker
(amino acid sequence or bridge for bridging or linking
the two plausible sites to form a single polypeptide
chain) is used. Figure 4 shows in block diagram form
the steps used to select plausible sites in the single
linker. The steps of Figure 4 are a preferred embodi-
ment of step 302 of Figure 3.

A domain 1 is picked in a step 402 (see Figure 4).
A schematic diagram of two naturally aggregated but
chemically separate polypeptide chains is shown in
Figure 5A. For purposes of illustration, assume that
L is the light chain of the antibody variable region
(the first polypeptide chain) and is domain 1. As
shown in Figure 5A, light chain L is on the left side,
and heavy chain H is on the right side.

The next step 404 is to pick the domain 2, which,
as indicated, is the heavy chain H of the antibody
variable region on the right side of Figure 5A.

The linker that will be selected will go from do-
main 1 (the light chain L) towards domain 2 (heavy
chain, H). As the linker will become part of the sin-
gle polypeptide chain, it must have the same direc-
tionality as the polypeptides it is linking; i.e. the
amino end of the linker must join the carboxy terminal
of some amino acid in domain 1, and the carboxy ter-
minal of the linker must join the amino terminal of
some residue in domain 2. A starting point (first
site) on domain 1 is selected, as represented by step
in 406 in Figure 4. The starting point is chosen to
be close to the C (C for carboxy) terminal of domain
1, call this amino acid tau 1. It is important to
pick tau 1 close to the C terminal to minimize loss of
native protein structure. Residue tau 1 is shown
schematically in two dimensions in figure 6A; it is
also shown in figure 6B where it is presented in a
two-dimensional representation of the naturally aggre-
gated but chemically separate H and L polypeptide
chains.

Next, the final point (second site) close the N (N
for amino) terminal of domain 2 is selected, as indi-
cated by step 408 of Figure 4. The final site is an
amino acid of domain 2 which will be called sigma 1.
It is important that amino acid sigma 1 be close to
the N terminal of domain 2 to minimize loss of native
protein structure. Amino acid sigma 1 is shown sche-
matically in figure 6A and in the more realistic re-
presentation of figure 6B.

Figure 7 shows in simplified form the concept that
the linker goes from a first site at amino acid tau 1
in domain 1 to a second site at amino acid sigma 1 in

domain 2. There are a plurality of possible first sites and a plurality of second sites, as is shown in figure 7. A computer program prepares a table which contains for each amino acid in domain 1 the identity of the closest amino acid in domain 2 and the distance. This program uses the position of the <u>alpha</u> carbon as the position of the entire amino acid. The expert operator prepares a list of plausible amino acids in domain 1 to be the first site, <u>tau</u> 1, and a list of plausible amino acids in domain 2 to be the second site, <u>sigma</u> 1. Linkers are sought from all plausible sites <u>tau</u> 1 to all plausible sites <u>sigma</u> 1. The expert operator must exercise reasonable judgement in selecting the sites <u>tau</u> 1 and <u>sigma</u> 1 in deciding that certain amino acids are more important to the stability of the native protein than are other amino acids. Thus the operator may select sites which are not actually the closest.

The complete designed protein molecule in accordance with the present invention consists of the domain 1 (of the light chain L) up to the amino acid <u>tau</u> 1, the linker, as shown by the directional-line in Figure 8A and in Figure 8B, and the domain 2 from amino acid <u>sigma</u> 1 to the C terminus of the heavy chain, H. As shown in Figures 8A and 8B, in the representative example, this results in the following loss of native protein.

The first loss in native protein is from the residue after residue <u>tau</u> 1 to the C terminus of domain 1 (light chain L). The second loss of native protein is from the N terminus of domain 2 (heavy chain, H) to the amino acid before <u>sigma</u> 1.

As is best understood from Figure 8A, the intro-
duction of linker 1 produces a single polypeptide
chain from the two naturally aggregated chains. The
polypeptide chain begins with the N terminal of domain
1.   Referring now to Figure 8B, the chain proceeds
through almost the entire course of the native light
chain, L, until it reaches amino acid tau 1.   The
linker then connects the carboxy terminal of a very
slightly truncated domain 1 to residue sigma 1 in the
very slightly truncated domain 2.   Since a minimum
amount of native protein is eliminated, and the linker
is selected to fit structurally as well as possible
(as described below in connection with general steps 2
and 3 of the present invention), the resulting single
polypeptide chain has a very high probability (several
orders of magnitude greater than if the linker was
selected randomly) to fold into a three-dimensional
structure very similar to the original structure made
of two polypeptide chains.

The single polypeptide chain results in a much
more stable protein which contains a binding site
very similar to the binding site of the original an-
tibody. In this way a single polypeptide chain can be
engineered from the naturally occuring two-polypep-
tide chain variable region, so as to create a polypep-
tide of only one chain, but maintaining the binding
site of the antibody.

In the current mode of the present invention, the
expert operator selects the sites with minimal help
from the computer. The computer prepares the table of
closest-residue-in-other-domain.   The computer can
provide more help in the following ways.

(1)   Prepare a list of conserved and variable res-
idues for variable regions of antibodies (Fv region).
Residues which vary from Fv to Fv would be much better
starting or ending sites for linkage than are residues
which are conserved over many different Fv sequences.

(2)   Prepare a list of solvent accessibilities.
Amino acids exposed to solvent can be substituted with
less likelihood of destabilizing the native structure
than amino acids buried within the native structure.
Exposed amino acids are better choices to start or end
linkage.

With respect to each of the plurality of possible
first sites (on domain 1 or light chain L) there are
available a plurality of second sites (on domain 2 or
heavy chain H) (See Figures 7 and 8A). As the second
site is selected closer to the N terminus of domain 2,
the distance to any of the plausible first sites in-
creases. Also, as the first site is selected closer
to the C terminus of domain 1 the distance to any of
the plausible second sites increases. It is this ten-
sion between shortness of linker and retention of na-
tive protein which the expert operator resolves in
choosing gaps to be linked. The penalty for including
extra sites in the list of gaps are:

(1)   searching in general step 2 will be slower;
and

(2) more candidates will pass from step 2 many of
which must be rejected in step 3. As step 3 is cur-
rently a manual step, this is the more serious penal-
ty.

Figure 8B shows diagramatically by a directional arrow
the possible links that can occur between the various

sites near the C terminal of domain 1 and the various
sites near the N terminal of domain 2.

B. Selection of Candidates

In the second of the three general steps of the
present invention as used in the single linker embodi-
ment, plausible candidates for linking the site 1 on
domain 1 with site 2 on domain 2 are selected from a
much larger group of candidates. This process of win-
nowing out candidates results in the expert operator
and/or expert system having a relatively small group
of candidates to rank from most plausible to least
plausible in the third general step of the present
invention, as described in subsection C below.

Currently, there are approximately 250 protein
structures, determined at 2.0 A or higher resolution,
in the public domain. The structures of these very
complicated molecules are determined using sophisti-
cated scientific techniques such as X-ray crystallo-
graphy, neutron diffraction, and nuclear magnetic res-
onance. Structure determination produces a file of
data for each protein. The Brookhaven Protein Data
Bank (BPDB) exemplifies a repository of protein struc-
tural information. Each file in BPDB contains many
records of different types. These records carry the
following information:

(1) Name of the protein and standard classifica-
tion number,

(2) Organism from which protein was obtained,

(3) Name and address of contributor,

(4) Amino-acid sequence of each polypeptide chain,
if known,

(5) Connectivity of disulfides, if any,

(6) Names and connectivities of any prosthetic groups, if any,

(7) References to literature,

(8) Transformation from reported coordinates to crystallographic coordinates,

(9) Coordinates of each atom determined.

There is at least one record for each atom for which a coordinate was determined. Some parts of some proteins are disordered and do not diffract X-rays, so no sensible coordinates can be given. Thus there may be amino acids in the sequence for which only some or none of the atoms have coordinates. Coordinates are given in Angstrom units (100,000,000 A = 1 cm) on a rectangular Cartesian grid. As some parts of a protein may adopt more than one spatial configuration, there may be two or more coordinates for some atoms. In such cases, fractional occupancies are given for each alternative position. Atoms move about, some more freely than others. X-ray data can give an estimate of atomic motion which is reported as a temperature (a.k.a. Debye-Waller) factor.

Any other data base which included, implicitly or explicitly, the following data would be equally useful:

(1) Amino acid sequence of each polypeptide chain.

(2) Connectivity of disulfides, if any,

(3) Names and connectivities of any prosthetic groups, if any,

(4) Coordinates (x, y, z) of each atom in each observed configuration.

(5) Fractional occupancy of each atom,

(6) Temperature factor of each atom.

Proteins usually exist in aqueous solution. Al-
though protein coordinates are almost always deter-
mined for proteins in crystals, direct contacts be-
tween proteins are quite rare. protein crystals con-
tain from 20% to 90% water by volume. Thus one usual-
ly assumes that the structure of the protein in solu-
tion will be the same as that in the crystal. It is
now generally accepted that the solution structure of
a protein will differ from the crystal structure only
in minor details. Thus, given the coordinates of the
atoms, one can calculate quite easily the solvent ac-
cessibility of each atom.

In addition, the coordinates implicitly give the
charge distribution throughout the protein. This is
of use in estimating whether a hypothetical molecule
(made of native protein and one or more linkers) will
fold as designed. The typical protein whose structure
is known comprises a chain of amino acids (there are
21 types of amino acids) in the range of 100 to 300
amino acids.

Each of these amino acids alone or in combination
with the other amino acids as found in the known pro-
tein molecule can be used as a fragment to bridge the
two sites. The reason that known protein molecules
are used is to be able to use known protein fragments
for the linker or bridge.

Even with only 250 proteins of known structure,
the number of possible known fragments is very large.
A linker can be from one to twenty or thirty amino
acids long. Let "Lmax" be the maximum number of amino
acids allowed in a linker, for example, Lmax might be

25.   Consider a protein of "Naa" amino acids.   Pro-
teins have Naa in the range 100 to 800, 250 is typi-
cal. From this protein one can select Naa-1 distinct
two-amino-acid linkers, Naa-2 distinct three-amino-
acid linkers,...and (Naa+1-Lmax) distinct linkers con-
taining exactly Lmax amino acids. The total number of
linkers containing Lmax or fewer linkers is "Nlink,"

$$Nlink = \sum_{j=1,Lmax} (Naa+1-j)$$

$$= Naa \times (Lmax) - (Lmax \times Lmax)/2 + Lmax/2$$

If Naa is 250 and Lmax is 25, Nlink will be 5975. If
the number of known proteins is "Nprot," then the
total number of linkers, "Nlink_total" will be

$$Nlink\_total = \sum_{k=1,Nprot} \sum_{j=1, Lmax} (Naa(k)+1-j)$$

$$= \sum_{k=1, Nprot} [Naa(k) \times (Lmax) - (Lmax \times Lmax)/2 + Lmax/2]$$

$$= Nprot \times (Lmax/2 - Lmax \times Lmax)/2 + Lmax \times \sum_{K=1, Nprot} Naa(k)$$

Where Naa(k) is the number of amino acids in the kth
protein. With 250 proteins, each containing 250 amino
acids (on average), and Lmax set to 25, Nlink_total is
1,425,000.

This is the number of linkers of known structure.
If one considers the number of possible amino acid
sequences up to length Lmax (call it "Nlink_possible"),
it is much larger.

$$\text{Nlink\_possible} = \sum_{J = 1, Lmax} 20^J$$

For Lmax = 25

Nlink_possible = 353, 204, 547, 368, 421, 052,
631, 578, 947, 368, 420
$$= 3.53 * 10^{32}$$

Using <u>known</u> peptide fragments thus reduces the possi-
bilities by twenty-six orders of magnitude. Appropri-
ate searching through the known peptide fragments re-
duces the possibilities a further five orders of mag-
nitude.

Essentially, the present invention utilizes a se-
lection strategy for reducing a list of possible can-
didates. This is done as explained below in a prefer-
red form in a three step process. This three step
process, as is illustrated in the explanation of the
each of the three steps of the process, significantly
reduces the computer time required to extract the most
promising candidates from the data base of possible
candidates. This should be contrasted with a serial
search throughout the entire data base of candidates,

which would require all candidates to be examined in
total. The present invention examines certain speci-
fic parameters of each candidate, and uses these para-
meters to produce subgroups of candidates that are
then examined by using other parameters. In this way,
the computer processing speed is significantly in-
creased.

The best mode of the present invention uses a pro-
tein data base created and supplemented by the Brook-
haven National Laboratory in Upton, Long Island, New
York. This data base is called the Brookhaven Protein
Data Base (BPDB). It provides the needed physical and
chemical parameters that are needed by the present
invention. It should be understood, that the candi-
date linkers can be taken from the Brookhaven Protein
Data Base or any other source of three-dimensional
protein structures. These sources must accurately
represent the proteins. In the current embodiment,
X-ray structures determined at resolution of 2.5A or
higher and appropriately refined were used. Each pep-
tide is replaced (by least-squares fit) by a standard
planar peptide with standard bond lengths and angles.
Peptides which do not accurately match a standard pep-
tide (e.g. cis peptides) are not used to begin or end
linkers, but may appear in the middle.

Each sequence up to some maximum number of amino
acids (Lmax) is taken as a candidate. In the prefer-
red embodiment, the maximum number of amino acids
(Lmax) is set to 30. However, the present invention
is not limited to this number, but can use any maximum
number that is desired under the protein engineering
circumstances involved.

1.   **Selecting Candidates with Proper Dis-
tance Between the N Terminal and the C Terminal.**

The first step in the selection of candidates step
is to select the candidate linkers with a proper dis-
tance between the N terminal and the C terminal from
all of the candidate linkers that exist in the protein
data base that is being used. Figure 9 shows in block
diagram form the steps that make up this candidate
selection process utilizing distance as the selection
parameter.

Referring to Figure 9, a standard point relative
to the peptide unit at the first site is selected, as
shown by block 902.

A standard point relative to the peptide unit in
the second site is also picked, as indicated by a
block 904. Note that in the best mode the geometric
centers of the peptide units of the first and second
sites are used, but any other standard point can be
utilized, if desired.

The distance between the standard points of the
two peptides at the first and second sites defining
the gap to be bridged by the linker is then calculat-
ed, as indicated by block 906. This scalar distance
value is called the Span of the gap. Note that this
scalar value does not include any directional informa-
tion.

Next, as indicated by a step 908, the distance
between the ends of the possible linker candidates are
calculated. The distance between the ends of a par-
ticular candidate is called the span of the candidate.
Note that each possible linker candidate has a span of
the candidate scalar value.

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The final step in the distance selection candidate selection process is that of a step 910. In step 910, candidates are discarded whose span of the candidate values differ from the span of the gap value by more than a preselected amount (this preselected amount is Max LSQFIT error). In the best mode of the present invention, the preselected amount for Max LSQFIT error is 0.50 Angstroms. However, any other suitable value can be used.

The preceding discussion has been for a single gap. In fact, the expert user often selects several gaps and the search uses all of them. The span of each candidate is compared to the span of each gap until it matches one, within the preset tolerance, or the list of gaps is exhausted. If the candidate matches none of the gaps, it is discarded. If it matches any gap it is carried to the next stage.

The inventors have determined that the use of the distance as the first parameter for discarding possible linker candidates results in a significant reduction in the number of possible candidates with a minimum amount of computer time that is needed. In terms of the amount of reduction, a representative example (using linkers up to 20 amino acids) starts out with 761,905 possible candidates that are in the protein data base. This selection of candidates using the proper distance parameter winnows this number down to approximately 63,727 possible candidates. As is discussed below, the distance selection operation requires much less computer time than is required by the other two steps which make up this selection step 304.

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The result of this selection of candidates according to proper distance is a group (called a first group of candidates) which exhibit a proper length as compared to the gap that is to be bridged or linked. This first group of candidates is derived from the protein data base using the distance criteria only.

2. Selecting Candidates with Proper Direction from N Terminal to C Terminal

This substep essentially creates a second group of possible candidates from the first group of possible candidates which was produced by the distance selection substep discussed in connection with Figure 9. The second group of candidates is selected in accordance with the orientation of the C terminal residue (i.e. the final residue) of the linker with respect to the N terminal residue (i.e. the initial residue) which is compared to the orientation of the C terminal residue (i.e. the second site) of the gap with respect to the N terminal residue (i.e. the first site). See Figure 20B. In this way, this direction evaluation determines if the chain of the linker ends near the second site of the gap, when the amino terminal amino acid of the linker is superimposed on the first site of the gap so as to produce the minimum amount of unwanted molecular distortion.

Referring now to Figure 10, the first step used in producing the second group of possible candidates is a step 1002. In step 1002 a local coordinate system is established on the N terminal residue of one of the selected gaps. For example, one might take the local X-axis as running from the first alpha carbon of the N

terminal residue to the second alpha carbon of the N
terminal residue, with the first alpha carbon at the
origin - the second alpha carbon on the plus X-axis.
The local Y-axis is selected so that the carbonyl oxy-
gen lies in the xy plane with a positive y coordinate.
The local Z-axis is generated by crossing X into Y.
Next, as indicated by step 1004, a standard reference
point in the C terminal residue of the gap is located
and its spherical polar coordinates are calculated in
the local system. The standard reference point could
be any of the atoms in the C terminal peptide
(throughout this application, peptide, residue, and
amino acid are used interchangeably) or an average of
their positions. Steps 1002 and 1004 are repeated for
all gaps in the list of gaps. As indicated by step
1006, a local coordinate system is established on the
N terminal residue of one of the candidates. This
local coordinate system must be established in the
same manner used for the local coordinate systems es-
tablished on each of the gaps. Various local systems
could be used, but one must use the same definition
throughout. In step 1008, the standard reference
point is found in the C terminal residue of the cur-
rent candidate. This standard point must be chosen in
the same manner used for the gaps. The spherical pol-
ar coordinates of the standard point are calculated in
the local system of the candidate. (This use of local
coordinate system is completely equivalent to rotating
and translating all gaps and all candidates so that
their initial peptide lies in a standard position at
the origin.) In step 1010, the spherical polar coor-
dinates of the gap vector (r, theta, phi) are compared

to the spherical polar coordinates of the candidate
vector (r, theta, phi). In step 1012 a preset thresh-
hold is applied, if the two vectors agree closely
enough, then one proceeds to step 1014 and enrolls the
candidate in the second group of candidates. Current-
ly, this preset threshhold is set to 0.5 A, but other
values could be used. From step 1014, one skips for-
ward to step 1022, vide infra. On the other hand, if
the vectors compared in step 1012 are not close
enough, one moves to the next gap vector in the list,
in step 1016. If there are no more gaps, one goes to
step 1018 where the candidate is rejected. If there
are more gaps, step 1020 increments the gap counter
and one returns to step 1010. From steps 1014 or 1018
one comes to step 1022 where one tests to see if all
candidates have been examined. If not, step 1024 in-
crements the candidate counter and one returns to step
1006. If all candidates have been examined, one has
finished, step 1026.

Figure 11 shows the concept of comparing the di-
rection of the gap to the direction of the candidate.

The inventors have determined that in the example
discussed above where 761,905 possible candidates are
in the protein data base, the winnowing process in
this step reduces the approximate 63,727 candidates in
the first group to approximately 50 candidates in the
second group. The inventors have also determined that
as referenced to the units of computer time referred
to above in connection with the scalar distance para-
meter, it takes approximately 4 to 5 computer units of
time to perform the selection of this step. Thus, it
can be appreciated that it preserves computer time to

perform the distance selection first, and the direction selection second since the direction selection process takes more time than the distance selection process.

3.   Selecting Candidates with Proper Orientation at Both Termini

In this step, the candidates in the second group of step 1016 of Figure 10 are winnowed down to produce a third group of plausible candidates using an evaluation of the relative orientation between the peptide groups at either end of the candidate, compared to the relative orientation between the peptide groups at either end of the gap. In a step 1201, (Figure 12) decide that a peptide will be represented by 3, 4, or 5 atoms (vide infra). Specifically, in a step 1202, one of the candidates in the second group (step 1014) is selected for testing. In a step 1204, three to five atoms in the first peptide are selected to define the orientation of the first peptide. So long as the atoms are not collinear, three atoms is enough, but using four or five atoms makes the least-squares procedure which follows over-determined and therefore compensates for errors in the coordinates. For example, assume selection of four atoms: C alpha, C, N, and C beta. Next, in a step 1206, one selects the corresponding 3,4, or 5 atoms from the final peptide of the selected candidate. These 6, 8, or 10 atoms define a three-dimensional object. In a step 1208, select one of the gaps. Select the corresponding 6, 8, or 10 atoms from the gap. In a step 1210, least-squares fit the atoms from the candidate to the atoms from the gap. This least-squares fit allows degrees

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of freedom to superimpose the two three-dimensional
objects. Assume that one object is fixed and the
other is free to move. Three degrees of freedom con-
trol the movement of the center of the free object.
Three other degrees of freedom control the orientation
of the free object. In a step 1212, the result of the
least-square fit is examined. If the Root-Mean-Square
(RMS) error is less than some preset threshhold, the
the candidate is a good fit for the gap being consi-
dered and is enrolled in the third group in a step
1214. If, on the other hand, the RMS error is greater
than the preset threshhold, one checks to see if there
is another gap in the list in a step 1216. If there
is, one selects the next gap and returns to step 1208.
If there are no more gaps in the list, then the cur-
rent candidate from the second group is rejected in
step 1218. In step 1220, one checks to see if there
are more candidates in the second group; if so, a new
candidate is selected and one returns to step 1201.
If there are no more candidates, one is finished (step
1222). Again referring to a representative case,
where linkers of length up to twenty amino acids were
sought for a single gap with separation 12.7 A, the
protein data bank contained 761,905 potential linkers.
Of these, 63,727 passed the distance test. The direc-
tion test removed all but 50 candidates. The orien-
tation test passed only 1 candidate with RMS error
less than or equal to 0.5 A. There were two addition-
al candidates with RMS error between 0.5 A and 0.6 A.
Moreover, the inventors have determined that it takes
about 25 units of computer time to evaluate each can-
didate in group 2 to decide whether they should be

selected for group 3. It can be appreciated now that the order selected by the inventors for the three steps of winnowing the candidates has been selected so that the early steps take less time per candidate than the following steps. The order of the steps used to select the candidate can be changed, however, and still produce the desired winnowing process. Logically, one might even omit steps one and two and pass all candidates through the least-squares process depicted in Figure 12 and achieve the same list of candidates, but at greater cost in computing. This may be done in the case of parallel processing where computer time is plentiful, but memory is in short supply.

Another approach (not illustrated) for determining whether the proper orientation exists between the ends of the candidate, is to examine only the atoms at the C terminal of the candidate as compared to the atoms at the final peptide of the gap. In step 2, the inventors aligned the first peptide of the candidate with the first peptide in the gap. Having done this, one could merely compare the atoms at the C terminal of the candidate with the atoms of the second peptide of the gap. This approach is inferior to that discussed above because all the error appears at the C terminus, while the least-squares method discussed above distributes the errors evenly.

C.   Ranking and Eliminating Candidates.

As shown in Figure 3, the third general step in the present invention is that of ranking the plausible candidates from most plausible to least plausible, and eliminating those candidates that do not appear to be plausible based on criteria utilized by an expert operator and/or expert system.

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In the best mode, the candidates in the third group (step 1214) are provided to the expert operator, who can sequentially display them in three dimensions utilizing the computer-graphics display system 116. The expert operator then can make decisions about the candidates based on knowledge concerning protein chemistry and the physical relationship of the plausible candidate with respect to the gap being bridged. This analysis can be used to rank the plausible candidates in the third group from most plausible to least plausible. Based on these rankings, the most plausible candidates can be selected for genetic engineering.

As noted above in connection with the illustrative example, there are typically few (under 100) candidates which make it to the third group of step 1214. Consequently, a moderately expert operator (one having a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry, for example), can typically winnow down this number of plausible candidates to a group of 10 to 15. Thereafter, a more expert operator and/or expert system can further winnow down the number. In this way, only a very few of the plausible candidates needs to be tested in practice as compared to the hundreds, thousands or more of candidates that would have to be tested if no selection process like that of the present invention was used. This speeds up the process of engineering the single chain molecules by orders of magnitude, while reducing costs and other detriments by orders of magnitude as well.

In certain situations, however, automatic ranking in this third general step may be warranted. This could occur, for example, where the expert operator

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was presented with quite a few candidates in the third
group, or where it is desired to assist the expert
operator in making the ranking selections and elimin-
ating candidates based on prior experience that has
been derived from previous engineering activities
and/or actual genetic engineering experiments.

Referring now to Figure 13, a coordinate listing
of the hypothetical molecule (candidate) is automati-
cally constructed, as is indicated by a block 1302.
The expert operator can then display using a first
color the residues from domain 1 of the native pro-
tein.   Color display 120 can provide a visual indi-
cation to the expert operator of where the residues
lie in domain 1. This is indicated by a block 1304.

The expert operator then can display on color dis-
play 120 the residues from domain 2 of the native pro-
tein using a second color, as is indicated by a block
1306.   The use of a second color provides a visual
indication to the user which assists in distinguishing
the residues from domain 1 from the residues from
domain 2.

The linker (candidate) being ranked can be dis-
played in a selected color, which color can be differ-
ent from the first color of step 1304 and/or the sec-
ond color from step 1306. Again, by using this visual
color indication, the expert operator can distinguish
the residues of domain 1 and 2 of the native protein.
This display of the linker candidate is indicated by a
block 1308.

The initial picture on the color display 120 pro-
vided to the expert operator typically shows the alpha
carbons for all of the residues. This is indicated by

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a block 1310. In addition, the initial picture shows
the main-chain and side-chains for residues and lin-
kers and one residue before the linker and one residue
after the linker. This is indicated by a block 1312.

The expert operator can also cause any of the
other atoms in the native protein or linker candidate
to be drawn at will. The molecule can be rotated,
translated, and enlarged or reduced, by operator com-
mand, as was discussed generally in connection with
the computer-graphics display system 116 above. The
block diagram of Figure 13 indicates that each of the
steps just discussed are accomplished in serial fash-
ion. However, this is only for purposes of illustra-
tion. It should be understood that the operator can
accomplish any one or more of these steps as well as
other steps at will and in any sequence that is de-
sired in connection with the ranking of the plausible
candidates in group 3.

The expert operator and/or expert system utilized
in this third general step in ranking the candidates
from most plausible to least plausible and in elimin-
ating the remaining candidates from group 3, can use a
number of different rules or guidelines in this selec-
tion process. Representive of these rules and guide-
lines are the following which are discussed in connec-
tion with Figure 14. Note that the blocks in Figure
14 show the various rules and/or criteria, which are
not necessarily utilized in the order in which the
boxes appear. The order shown is only for purposes of
illustration. Other rules and/or criteria can be
utilized in the ranking process, as well.

As shown in step 1402, a candidate can be rejected if any atom of the linker comes closer than a minimum allowed separation to any retained atom of the native protein structure. In the best mode, the minimum allowed separation is set at 2.0 Angstroms. Note that any other value can be selected. This step can be automated, if desired, so that the expert operator does not have to manually perform this elimination process.

A candidate can be penalized if the hydrophobic residues have high exposure to solvent, as is indicated by a block 1404. The side chains of phenylananine, tryptophan, tyrosine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, and valine do not interact favorably with water and are called hydrophobic. Proteins normally exist in saline aqueous solution; the solvent consists of polar molecules (H_2O) and ions.

A candidate can be penalized when the hydrophilic residues have low exposure to solvent. The side chains of serine, threonine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, asparagine, glutamine, lysine, arginine, and proline do interact favorably with water and are called hydrophilic. This penalization step for hydrophilic residues is indicated by a block 1406.

A candidate can be promoted when hydrophobic residues have low exposure to solvent, as is indicated by a block 1408.

A candidate can be promoted when hydrophilic residues have high exposure to solvent, as indicated by a block 1410.

A candidate can be penalized when the main chain fails to form hydrogen bonds, as is indicated by a block 1412.

A candidate can be penalized when the main chain makes useless excursions into the solvent region. Useless excursions are those which do not make any evident interaction with the retained native protein. This is indicated by a block 1414.

A candidate can be promoted when the main chain forms a helix, as is indicated by a block 1416. Hilices are self-stabilizing. Thus a linker which is helical will be more stable because its main-chain polar atoms (O and N) will form hydrogen bonds within the linker.

As is indicated by a block 1418, a candidate can be promoted when the main chain forms a beta sheet which fits against existing beta sheets. The strands of beta sheets stabilize each other. If a linker were found which was in a beta-sheet conformation such that it would extend an existing beta sheet, this interaction would stabilize both the linker and the native protein.

Another expert design rule penalizes candidates which have sterically bulky side chains at undesirable positions along the main chain. Furthermore, it is possible to "save" a candidate with a bulky side chain by replacing the bulky side chain by a less bulky one. For example if a side chain carries a bulky substituent such as leucine or isoleucine, a possible design step replaces this amino acid by a glycine, which is the least bulky side chain.

Other rules and/or criteria can be utilized in the selection process of the third general step 306, and the present invention is not limited to the rules and/or criteria discussed. For example, once the

linker has been selected it is also possible to add,
delete, or as stated, modify one or more amino acids
therein, in order to accomplish an even better 3-D
fit.

IV.   Double and Multiple Linker Embodiments

Section III above described the single linker em-
bodiment in accordance with the present invention.
This section describes double linker and multiple lin-
ker embodiments in accordance with the present inven-
tion. For brevity purposes, only the significant dif-
ferences between this embodiment and the single linker
embodiment will be described here and/or illustrated
in separate figures. Reference should therefore be
made to the text and figures that are associated with
the single linker embodiment

A.   Plausible Site Selection.

The two main goals of minimizing distance between
the sites to be linked and the least loss of native
protein apply in the site selection in the double and
multiple linker embodiments as they did apply in the
single linker embodiment discussed above.

Figure 15A shows a simplified two dimensional rep-
resentation of the use of two linkers to create the
single polypeptide chain from the two naturally aggre-
gated but chemically separate polypeptide chains.
Figure 15B shows in two dimensions a three dimensional
representation of the two chains of Figure 15A. Refer-
ring now to Figures 15A and B, the first step in de-

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termining suitable sites is to find a site in domain 1
which is close to either the C or N terminus of domain
2. For purposes of illustration, and as is shown in
Figures 15A and 15B, it is assumed that the most pro-
mising location is the C terminus of domain 2. The
residue in domain 1 is called Tau 1, while the residue
in domain 2 is called Sigma 1.

Figures 16A and 16B are respectively two dimen-
sional simplified plots of the two chains, and two
dimensional plots of the three dimensional representa-
tion of the two chains. They are used in connection
with the explanation of how plausible sites are selec-
ted for the second linker in the example situation.

The first step in connection with finding plausi-
ble sites for the second linker is to find a residue
in domain 1 that is before Tau 1 in the light chain.
This residue is called residue Tau 2. It is shown in
the top portion in Figure 16A, and in the right middle
portion in Figure 16B.

The next step in the site selection process for
the second linker is to find a residue in domain 2
near the N terminus of domain 2. This residue is
called residue Sigma 2. Reference again is made to
Figures 16A and B to show the location of Sigma 2.

The second linker (linker 2) thus runs from Tau 2
to Sigma 2. This is shown in Figures 17A and 17B.
Note that the chain that is formed by these two lin-
kers has the proper direction throughout.

Figure 18 shows in two dimensional simplified form
the single polypeptide chain that has been formed by
the linking of the two independent chains using the
two linkers. Note that the approach outlined above

resulted in the minimal loss of native protein. The
completely designed protein is shown in Figure 17 and
consists of domain 1 from the N terminal to Tau 2,
linker 2, domain 2 from Sigma 2 to Sigma 1, linker 1,
and domain 1 from Tau1 to the C terminus. The arrows
that are shown in Figure 17 indicate the direction of
the chain.

Figure 17 shows that the residues lost by the
utilization of the two linkers are: (a) from the N
terminus of domain 2 up to the residue before Sigma 2;
and (b) from the residue after Sigma 1 to the C termi-
nus of domain 2; and (c) from the residue after Tau 2
to the residue before Tau 1 of domain 1.

If one of the linkers in the two linker case is
very long, one could link from Tau 2 to a residue in
domain 2 after Sigma 1. A third linker (not shown)
would then be sought from a residue near the C termi-
nal of domain 2 to a residue near the N terminal of
domain 2.

Additionally, one could use two linkers to recon-
nect one of the domains in such a way that a single
linker or a pair of linkers would weld the two domains
into one chain.

**B.   Candidate Selection and Candidate Rejec-
tion Steps**

Ranking of linkers in the multilinker cases fol-
lows the same steps as in the single linker case ex-
cept there are some additional considerations.

(1) There may be a plurality of linkers for
each of the two (or more) gaps to be closed. One must
consider all combinations of each of the linkers for
gap A with each of the linkers for gap B.

(2) One must consider the interactions be-
tween linkers.

As one must consider combinations of linkers, the
ranking of individual linkers is used to cut down to a
small number of very promising linkers for each gap.
If one has only three candidates for each gap, there
are nine possible constructs.

The process of examining interactions between lin-
kers and discarding poor candidates can be automated
by applying the rules discussed above.

V.   Parallel Processing Embodiment

Figure 19 shows in block diagram form the parallel
processing approach that can be utilized in the pres-
ent invention.

As shown in Figure 19, a friendly serial processor
1902 is connected by a first bus 1904 to a plurality
of data storage devices and input devices. Specific-
ally, and only for purposes of illustration, a tape
input stage 1906 is connected to bus 1904 so as to
read into the system the parameters of the protein
data base that is used. A high storage disk drive
system 1908 (having, for example, 5 gigabits of
storage) is also connected to bus 1904.
Operationally, for even larger storage capabilities,
an optical disk storage stage 1910 of conventional
design can be connected to bus 1904.

The goal of the hypercube 1912 that is connected
to the friendly serial processor 1902 via a bi-direc-
tional bus 1914 is twofold: to perform searching fas-
ter, and to throw out candidates more automatically.

The hypercube 1912, having for example, 2^{10} to 2^{16} nodes provides for parallel processing. There are computers currently available which have up to 1,024 computing nodes. Thus each node would need to hold only about 1400 candidate linkers and local memory of available machines would be sufficient. This is the concept of the hypercube 1912. Using the hypercube parallel processing approach, the protein data base can be divided into as many parts as there are computing nodes. Each node is assigned to a particular known protein structure.

The geometry of the gap that has to be bridged by a linker is sent by the friendly serial processor 1902 via bus 1914 to the hypercube stage 1912. Each of the nodes in the hypercube 1912 then processes the geometrical parameters with respect to the particular candidate linker to which it is assigned. Thus, all of the candidates can be examined in a parallel fashion, as opposed to the serial fashion that is done in the present mode of the present invention. This results in much faster location (the inventors believe that the processing speed can be brought down from 6 hours to 3 minutes using conventional technology) in locating the candidates that can be evaluated by the second step 304 of the present invention.

Another advantage for the parallel processing embodiment is that it will provide sufficient speed to allow candidates to be thrown out more automatically. This would be achieved using molecular dynamics and energy minimization. While this could be done currently on serial processing computers (of the super computer variety such as those manufactured by Cray

and Cyber) the parallel processing approach will perform the molecular dynamics and energy minimization much faster and cheaper than using the super computing approach.

In particular, hypercube computers exist which have inexpensive computing nodes which compare very favorably to supercomputers for scalar arithmetic. Molecular dynamics and energy minimization are only partly vectorizable because the potential functions used have numerous data-dependent branches.

VI. Preparation and Expression of Genetic Sequences, and Uses.

The polypeptide sequences generated by the methods described herein, give rise by application of the genetic code, to genetic sequences coding therefor. Given the degeneracy of the code, however, there are in many instances multiple possible codons for any one amino acid. Therefore, codon usage rules, which are also well understood by those of skill in the art, can be utilized for the preparation of optimized genetic sequences for coding in any desired organism. (See, for example, Ikemura, *J. Mol. Biol.* 151:389-409 (1981)).

Generally, it is possible to utilize the cDNA sequences obtained from the light and heavy chains of the variable region of the original antibody as a starting point. These sequences can then be joined by means of genetic linkers coding for the peptide linker candidates elucidated by the methods of the invention. The genetic sequence can be entirely synthesized de novo or fragments of cDNA can be linked together with the synthetic linkers, as described.

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A large source of hybridomas and their correspond-
ing monoclonal antibodies are available for the pre-
paration of sequences coding for the H and L chains of
the variable region. As indicated previously, it is
well known that most "variable" regions of antibodies
of a given class are in fact quite constant in their
three dimensional folding pattern, except for certain
specific hypervariable loops. Thus, in order to
choose and determine the specific binding specific-
ity of the single chain binding protein of the inven-
tion it becomes necessary only to define the protein
sequence (and thus the underlying genetic sequence) of
the hypervariable region. The hypervariable region
will vary from binding molecule to molecule, but the
remaining domains of the variable region will remain
constant for a given class of antibody.

. Source mRNA can be obtained from a wide range of
hybridomas. See for example the catalogue ATCC Cell
Lines and Hybridomas, December 1984, American Type
Culture Collection, 20309 Parklawn Drive, Rockville,
Maryland 20852, U.S.A., at pages 5-9. Hybridomas se-
creting monoclonal antibodies reactive with a wide
variety of antigens are listed therein, are available
from the collection, and usable in the invention. Of
particular interest are hybridomas secreting antibod-
ies which are reactive with viral antigens, tumor as-
sociated antigens, lymphocyte antigens, and the like.
These cell lines and others of similar nature can be
utilized to copy mRNA coding for the variable region
or determine amino acid sequence from the monoclonal
antibody itself. The specificity of the antibody to
be engineered will be determined by the original se-

lection process. The class of antibody can be deter-
mined by criteria known to those skilled in the art.
If the class is one for which there is a three-dimen-
sional structure, one needs only to replace the se-
quences of the hyper-variable regions (or complemen-
tary determining regions). The replacement sequences
will be derived from either the amino acid sequence or
the nucleotide sequence of DNA copies of the mRNA.

It is to be specifically noted that it is not ne-
cessary to crystallize and determine the 3-D struc-
ture of each variable region prior to applying the
method of the invention. As only the hypervariable
loops change drastically from variable region to vari-
able region (the remainder being constant in the 3-D
structure of the variable region of antibodies of a
given class), it is possible to generate many single
chain 3-D structures from structures already known or
to be determined for each class of antibody.

For example, linkers generated in the Examples in
this application (e.g., TRY40, TRY61 or TRY59, see
below) are for Fv regions of antibodies of the IgA
class. They can be used universally for any antibody,
having any desired specificity, especially if the
antibody is of the IgA class.

Expression vehicles for production of the mole-
cules of the invention include plasmids or other vec-
tors. In general, such vectors containing replicon
and control sequences which are derived from species
compatible with a host cell are used in connection
with the host. The vector ordinarily carries a repli-
con site, as well as specific genes which are capable
of providing phenotypic selection in transformed
cells. For example, E. coli is readily transformed

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using pBR322, a plasmid derived from an E. coli spe-
cies. pBR322 contains genes for ampicillin and tetra-
cycline resistance, and thus provides easy means for
identifying transformed cells. The pBR322 plasmid or
other microbial plasmids must also contain, or be mod-
ified to contain, promoters which can be used by the
microbial organism for expression of its own proteins.
Those promoters most commonly used in recombinant DNA
construction include the beta lactamase, lactose pro-
moter systems, lambda phage promoters, and the trypto-
phan promoter systems. While these are the most com-
monly used, other microbial promoters have been dis-
covered and can be utilized.

For example, a genetic construct for a single
chain binding protein can be placed under the control
of the leftward promoter of bacteriophage lambda.
This promoter is one of the strongest known promoters
which can be controlled. Control is exerted by the
lambda repressor, and adjacent restriction sites are
known.

The expression of the single chain antibody can
also be placed under control of other regulatory se-
quences which may be homologous to the organism in its
untransformed state. For example, lactose dependent
E. coli chromosomal DNA comprises a lactose or lac
operon which mediates lactose utilization by elabora-
ting the enzyme beta-galactosidase. The lac control
elements may be obtained from bacteriophage lambda
plac5, which is infective for E. coli. The lac promo-
ter-operator system can be induced by IPTG.

Other promoter/operator systems or portions there-
of can be employed as well. For example, colicin E1,

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galactose, alkaline phosphatase, tryptophan, xylose, tac, and the like can be used.

Of particular interest is the use of the O_L/P_R hybrid lambda promoter (see for example U.S. patent application Serial Number 534,982 filed September 3, 1983, and herein incorporated by reference).

Other preferred hosts are mammalian cells, grown in vitro in tissue culture, or in vivo in animals. Mammalian cells provide post translational modifications to immunoglobulin protein molecules including correct folding or glycosylation at correct sites.

Mammalian cells which may be useful as hosts include cells of fibroblast origin such as VERO or CHO-Kl, or cells of lymphoid origin, such as the hybridoma SP2/0-AG14 or the myeloma P3x63Sg8, and their derivatives.

Several possible vector systems are available for the expression of cloned single chain binding proteins in mammalian cells. One class of vectors utilizes DNA elements which provide autonomously replicating extrachromosomal plasmids, derived from animal viruses such as bovine papilloma virus, polyoma virus, or SV40 virus. A second class of vectors relies upon the integration of the desired gene sequences into the host cell chromosome. Cells which have stably integrated the introduced DNA into their chromosomes can be selected by also introducing drug resistance genes such as E. coli GPT or Tn5neo. The selectable marker gene can either be directly linked to the DNA gene sequences to be expressed, or introduced into the same cell by co-transfection. Additional elements may also be needed for optimal synthesis of single chain binding

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protein mRNA. These elements may include splice sig-
nals, as well as transcription promoters, enhancers,
and termination signals. cDNA expression vectors in-
corporating such elements include those described by
Okayama, H., Mol. Cel. Biol., 3:280 (1983), and
others.

Another preferred host is yeast. Yeast provides
substantial advantages in that it can also carry out
post translational peptide modifications including
glycosylation. A number of recombinant DNA strategies
exist which utilize strong promoter sequences and high
copy number of plasmids which can be utilized for pro-
duction of the desired proteins in yeast. Yeast re-
cognizes leader sequences on cloned mammalian gene
products, and secretes peptides bearing leader sequen-
ces (i.e., pre-peptides).

Any of a series of yeast gene expression systems
incorporating promoter and termination elements from
the actively expressed genes coding for glycolytic
enzymes produced in large quantities when yeasts are
grown in mediums rich in glucose can be utilized.
Known glycolytic genes can also provide very efficient
transcription control signals. For example, the pro-
moter and terminator signals of the phosphoglycerate
kinase gene can be utilized.

Once the strain carrying the single chain building
molecule gene has been constructed, the same can also
be subjected to mutagenesis techniques using, chemical
agents or radiation, as is well known in the art.
From the colonies thus obtained, it is possible to
search for those producing binding molecules with in-
creased binding affinity. In fact, if the first lin-

ker designed with the aid of the computer fails to produce an active molecule, the host strain containing the same can be mutagenized. Mutant molecules capable of binding antigen can then be screened by means of a routine assay.

The expressed and refolded single chain binding proteins of the invention can be labelled with detectable labels such as radioactive atoms, enzymes, biotin/avidin labels, chromophores, chemiluminescent labels, and the like for carrying out standard immunodiagnostic procedures. These procedures include competitive and immunometric (or sandwich) assays. These assays can be utilized for the detection of antigens in diagnostic samples. In competitive and/or sandwich assays, the binding proteins of the invention can also be immobilized on such insoluble solid phases as beads, test tubes, or other polymeric materials.

For imaging procedures, the binding molecules of the invention can be labelled with opacifying agents, such as NMR contrasting agents or X-ray contrasting agents. Methods of binding, labelling or imaging agents to proteins as well as binding the proteins to insoluble solid phases are well known in the art. The refolded protein can also be used for therapy when labelled or coupled to enzymes or toxins, and for purification of products, especially those produced by the biotechnology industry. The proteins can also be used in biosensors.

Having now generally described this invention the same will be better understood by reference to certain specific examples which are included for purposes of illustration and are not intended to be limiting unless otherwise specified.

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EXAMPLES

In these experiments, the basic Fv 3-D structure used for the computer assisted design was that of the anti-phosphoryl choline myeloma antibody of the IgA class, MCPC-603. The X-ray structure of this antibody is publicly available from the Brookhaven data base.

The starting material for these examples was monoclonal antibody cell line 3C2 which produced a mouse anti-bovine growth hormone (BGH). This antibody is an IgG_1 with a gamma 1 heavy chain and kappa light chain. cDNA's for the heavy and light chain sequences were cloned and the DNA sequence determined. The nucleotide sequences and the translation of these sequences for the mature heavy and mature light chains are shown in Figures 21 and 22 respectively.

Plasmids which contain just the variable region of the heavy and light chain sequences were prepared. A ClaI site and an ATG initiation codon (ATCGATG) were introduced before the first codon of the mature sequences by site directed mutagenesis. A HindIII site and termination codon (TAAGCTT) were introduced after the codon 123 of the heavy chain and the codon 109 of the light chain. The plasmid containing the V_H sequences is pGX3772 and that containing the V_L is pGX3773 (Figure 23).

The examples below were constructed and produced by methods known to those skilled in the art.

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EXAMPLE 1

A. Computer Design

A two-linker example (referred to as TRY 40) was designed by the following steps.

First, it was observed that light chains were much easier to make in E. coli than were heavy chains. It was thus decided to start with light chain. (In the future, one could certainly make examples which begin with heavy chain because there is a very similar contact between a turn in the heavy chain and the exit strand of the light chain.)

Refer to stereo Figure 30A, which shows the light and heavy domains of the Fv from MOPC-603 antibody; the constant domains are discarded. A line joining the alpha carbons of the light chain is above and dashed. The amino terminus of the light chain is to the back and at about 10 o'clock from the picture center and is labeled "N." At the right edge of the picture, at about 2 o'clock is an arrow showing the path toward the constant domain. Below the light chain is a line joining the alpha carbons of the heavy chain. The amino terminus of the heavy chain is toward the viewer at about 7 o'clock and is also labeled "N." At about 4:30, one sees an arrow showing the heavy chain path to its constant domain.

The antigen-binding site is to the left, about 9 o'clock and between the two loops which project to the right above (light chain) and below (heavy chain).

In addition to the alpha carbon traces, there are three segments in which all non-hydrogen atoms have been drawn. These strands are roughly parallel and from upper right to lower left. They are

(a) Proline 46 to Proline 50 of the light chain.

(b) Valine 111 to Glycine 113 of the heavy chain.

(c) Glutamic acid 1 to glycine 10 of the heavy chain.

The contact between tryptophan 112 of the heavy chain and proline 50 of the light chain seems very favorable. Thus it was decided that these two residues should be conserved. Several linkers were sought and found which would join a residue at or following Tryptophan 112 (heavy) to a residue at or following Proline 50 (light). Stereo figure 30B shows the region around TRP 112H in more detail. The letter "r" stands between the side-chain of TRP 112H and PRO 50L; it was wished to conserve this contact. The letter "q" labels the carboxy terminal strand which leads towards the constant domain. It is from this strand that a linker will be found which will connect to PRO 50L.

Once a linker is selected to connect 112H to 50L, one needs a linker to get from the first segment of the light chain into the beginning portion of the heavy chain. Note that PRO 46L turns the chain toward PRO 50L. This turning seemed very useful, so it was decided to keep PRO 46L. Thus the second linker had to begin after 46L and before 50L, in the stretch marked "s." A search for linkers was done beginning on any of the residues 46L, 47L, or 48L. Linkers beginning on residue 49L were not considered because the chain has already turned toward 50L and away from the amino terminal of the heavy chain. Linkers were sought which ended on any of the residues 1H to 10H.

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Figure 30C shows the linked structure in detail. After TRP 112H and GLY 113H, was introduced the sequence PRO-GLY-SER, and then comes PRO 50L. A computer program was used to look for short contacts between atoms in the linker and atoms in the retained part of the Fv. There is one short contact between the beta carbon of the SER and PRO 50L, but small movements would relieve that. This first linker runs from the point labeled "x" to the point labeled "y." The second linker runs from "v" to "w." Note that most of the hydrophobic residues (ILE and VAL) are inside. There is a PHE on the outside. In addition, the two lysine residues and the asparagine residue are exposed to solvent as they ought to be. Figure 30D shows the overall molecule linked into a single chain.

B. Genetic Constructs

These constructs were prepared and the plasmids containing them using E. coli. hosts. Once constructed, the sequences can be inserted into whichever expression vehicle used in the organism of choice.

The first construction was TRY40 (the two-linker construction) which produces a protein with the following sequence:

Met-[L-chain 1-41]-Ile-Ala-Lys-Ala-Phe-Lys-Asn-[H-chain 8-105]-Pro-Gly-Ser-[L-chain 45-109]. The nucleotide sequence and its translation are seen in Figure 24. The hypervariable regions in TRY40 (as in TRY61 59 and 104B, see below) correspond, as indicated, to an IgG1 anti BGH antibody, even though the 3-D analysis was done on the Fv region of MCPC-603 antibody, having a different specificity, (anti phosphoryl choline) but having a similar framework in the variable region.

The antibody sequences in the plasmids pGX3772 and
pGX3773 were joined to give the sequence of TRY40 in
the following manner. The plasmids used contained an
M13 bacteriophage origin of DNA replication. When
hosts containing these plasmids are superinfected with
bacteriophage M13 two types of progeny are produced,
one containing the single-strand genome and the other
containing a specific circular single-strand of the
plasmid DNA. This DNA provided template for the oli-
gonucleotide directed site specific mutagenesis ex-
periments that follow. Template DNA was prepared from
the two plasmids. An EcoRI site was introduced before
codon 8 of the V_H sequence in pGX3772, by site direct-
ed mutagenesis, producing pGX3772'. Template from
this construction was prepared and an XbaI site was
introduced after codon 105 of the V_H sequence produc-
ing pGX3772''.

An EcoRI and an XbaI site were introduced into
pGX3773 between codons 41 and 45 of the V_L sequence by
site directed mutagenesis producing pGX3773'.

To begin the assembly of the linker sequences
plasmid pGX3773' (V_L) DNA was cleaved with EcoRI and
XbaI and treated with calf alkaline phosphatase. This
DNA was ligated to the EcoRI to XbaI fragment purified
from plasmid pGX3772''(V_H) which had been cleaved with
the two restriction enzymes. The resulting plasmid
pGX3774, contained the light and heavy chain sequences
in the correct order linked by the EcoRI and XbaI re-
striction sites. To insert the correct linker sequen-
ces in frame, pGX3774 template DNA was prepared. The
EcoRI junction was removed and the linker coding for
the -Ile-Ala-Lys-Ala-Phe-Lys-Asn- inserted by site

directed mutagenesis, producing plasmid pGX3774'.
Template DNA was prepared from this construction and
the XbaI site corrected and the linker coding for
-Pro-Gly-Ser- inserted by site directed mutagenesis
producing plasmid pGX3775. The sequence was found to
be correct as listed in Figure 24 by DNA sequencing.

In order to express the single-chain polypeptide,
the sequence as a ClaI to HindIII fragment was insert-
ed into a vector pGX3703. This placed the sequence
under the control of the O_L/P_R hybrid lambda promoter
(U.S. Patent Application 534,982, Sept. 23, 1983).
The expression plasmid is pGX3776 (Figure 25). The
plasmid pGX3776 was transformed into a host containing
a heat sensitive lambda phage repressor; when grown at
30°C the synthesis of the TRY40 protein is repressed.
Synthesis was induced by raising the temperature to
42°C, and incubating for 8-16 hours. The protein was
produced at 7.2% of total cell protein, as estimated
on polyacrylamide gel electropherograms stained with
Coomassie blue.

EXAMPLE 2

A. Computer Design

A one-linker example (referred to as TRY 61) was
designed by the following steps.

Refer to stereo Figure 31A which shows the light
and heavy domains of the Fv; the constant domains are
discarded. A line joining the alpha carbons of the
light chain is dashed. The amino terminus of the
light chain is to the back and at about the center of
the picture and is labeled "N." At the right edge of
the picture, at about 2 o'clock is an arrow showing

the path toward the constant domain of the light
chain. Below the light chain is a line joining the
alpha carbons of the heavy chain. The amino terminus
of the heavy chain is toward the viewer at about 9
o'clock and is also labeled "N". At about 4:30, one
sees an arrow showing the heavy chain path to its con-
stant domain.

In addition to the alpha carbon traces, there are
two segments in which all non-hydrogen atoms have been
drawn. These segments are the last few residues in
the light chain and the first ten in the heavy chain.
Linkers were sought between all pairs of these resi-
dues, but only a few were found because these regions
are widely separated.

Figure 31B shows the linker in place. Note that
the molecule now proceeds from the amino terminal of
the light chain to the carboxy terminal strand of the
heavy chain. Note also that the antigen-binding re-
gion is to the left, on the other side of the molecule
from the linker.

B. Genetic Constructs

The sequence of TRY61 (a single-linker embodi-
ment) is Met-[L-chain 1-104]-Val-Arg-Gly-Ser-Pro-Ala-
Ile-Asn-Val-Ala-Val-His-Val-Phe-[H-chain 7-123]. The
nucleotide sequence and its translation are shown in
Figure 26.

To construct TRY61, plasmid pGX3772' DNA was
cleaved with ClaI and EcoRI and treated with calf al-
kaline phosphatase. This DNA was ligated with the
ClaI to HindIII fragment from pGX3773 and two oligo-
nucleotides which code for the linker sequence and
have HindIII and EcoRI ends, so that the linker can

only be ligated in the correct orientation. The re-
sulting plasmid, pGX3777, was used to prepare template
DNA. This DNA was used for site directed mutagenesis
to remove the HindIII site inside the antibody sequen-
ces. The correct construction, pGX3777', was used to
make template DNA for a site directed mutagenesis to
remove the EcoRI site. The ClaI to HindIII fragment
from the final construction, pGX3778, containing the
TRY61 coding sequence was confirmed by DNA sequencing.
The ClaI to HindIII was inserted into the pGX3703 ex-
pression vector. This plasmid is called pGX4904 (Fig-
ure 27). This plasmid was transformed into an E. coli
host. The strain containing this plasmid has been
induced, and the single chain protein produced as >2%
of total cell protein.

EXAMPLE 3

A. Computer Design

A one-linker example (referred to as TRY 59) was
designed by the following steps.

Refer to stereo Figure 32A which shows the light
and heavy domains of the Fv; the constant domains are
discarded. A line joining the alpha carbons of the
light chain is above and dashed. The amino terminus
of the light chain is to the back and at about 10
o'clock from the center of the picture and is labeled
"N". At the right edge of the picture, at about 2
o'clock is an arrow showing the path toward the con-
stant domain of the light chain. Below the light
chain is a line joining the alpha carbons of the heavy
chain. The amino terminus of the heavy chain is to-
ward the viewer at about 8 o'clock and is also labeled

"N".   At about 4:30, one sees an arrow showing the heavy chain path to its constant domain.

. In addition to the alpha carbon traces, there are two segments in which all non-hydrogen atoms have been drawn.   These segments are the last few residues in the light chain and the first ten in the heavy chain. Linkers we sought between all pairs of these residues, but only a few were found because these regions are widely separated.

Figure 32B shows the linker in place.   Note that the molecule now proceeds from the amino terminal of the light chain to the carboxy terminal strand of the heavy chain.   Note also that the antigen-binding region is to the left, on the other side of the molecule from the linker.

The choice of end points in TRY59 is very similar to TRY61.   Linkers of this length are rare.   The tension between wanting short linkers that fit very well and which could be found for the two-linker case (TRY40) and the desire to have only one linker, (which is more likely to fold correctly) is evident in the acceptance of TRY59.   The linker runs from the point marked "A" in Figure 32B to the point marked "J." After five residues, the linker becomes helical.   At the point marked "x," however, the side-chain of an ILE residue collides with part of the light chain. Accordingly, that residue was converted to GLY in the actual construction.

   B.   Genetic Constructs

The sequence of TRY59 (the single linker construction) is Met-[L-chain 1-105]-Lys-Glu-Ser-Gly-Ser-Val-Ser-Ser-Glu-Gln-Leu-Ala-Gln-Phe-Arg-Ser-Leu-Asp-[H-

chain 2-123]. The nucleotide sequence coding for this
amino acid sequence and its translation is shown in
Figure 28. The BglI to HindIII fragment (read clock-
wise) from plasmid pGX3773 containing the V_L sequence
and the ClaI to BglI fragment (clockwise) from pGX3772
has been ligated with two oligonucleotides which form
a fragment containing the linker sequence for TRY59
and have ClaI and HindIII ends. The ClaI and HindIII
junctions within this plasmid are corrected by two
successive site directed mutageneses to yield the cor-
rect construction. The ClaI to HindIII fragment from
this plasmid is inserted into the O_L/P_R expression
vector as in Examples 1 and 2. The resulting plas-
mid, pGX4908 (Figure 29) is transformed into an E.
coli host. This strain is induced to produce the pro-
tein coded by the sequence in Figure 28 (TRY59).

Example 4

A. Computer Design

In this design an alternative method of choosing a
linker to connect the light and heavy variable regions
was used. A helical segment from human hemoglobin was
chosen to span the major distance between the carboxy
terminus of the variable light chain and the amino
terminus of the variable heavy chain. This alpha
helix from human hemoglobin was positioned at the rear
of the F_v model using the computer graphics system.
Care was taken to position the helix with its ends
near the respective amino and carboxyl termini of the
heavy and light chains. Care was also taken to place
hydrophobic side chains in toward the F_v and hydro-

philic side chains toward the solvent. The connec-
tions between the ends of the variable regions and the
hemoglobin helix were selected by the previously
described computer method (EXAMPLE 1-3).

B. Genetic Constructs

The sequence of TRY104b (a single linker construc-
tion) is Met-[L-chain 1-106]-Ala-Glu-Gly-Thr-[(Hemo-
globin helix)Leu-Ser-Pro-Ala-Asp-Lys-Thr-Asn-Val-Lys-
Ala-Ala-Trp-Gly-Lys-Val-]Met-Thr-[H-chain 3-123]. The
nucleotide sequence coding for this amino acid
sequence and its translation is shown in Figure 33.
The BglI to HindIII fragment (read clockwise) from
plasmid pGX3773 containing the V_L sequence and the
ClaI to BglI fragment (clockwise) from pGX3772 has
been ligated with two oligonucleotides which form a
fragment containing the linker sequence for TRY104b
and have ClaI and HindIII ends. The ClaI and HindIII
junctions within this plasmid are corrected by two
successive site directed mutageneses to yield the
correct construction. The ClaI to HindIII fragment
from this plasmid is inserted into the O_L/P_R expres-
sion vector as in Examples 1-3. The resulting plas-
mid, pGX4910 (Figure 34) is transformed into an E.
coli host. This strain is induced to produce the pro-
tein coded by the sequence in Figure 33 (TRY104b).

EXAMPLE 5

Purification of the Proteins

The single-chain antigen binding proteins from
TRY40, TRY61, TRY59 and TRY104b are insoluble, and
cells induced to produce these proteins show refrac-
tile bodies called inclusions upon microscopic exami-

nation.   Induced cells were collected by centrifuga-
tion.   The wet pellet was frozen on dry ice, then
stored at -20°C.   The frozen pellet was suspended in a
buffer and washed in the same buffer, and subsequently
the cells were suspended in the same buffer.   The
cells were broken by passage through a French pressure
cell, and the inclusion bodies containing the single-
chain antigen binding protein (SCA) were purified by
repeated centrifugation and washing.   The pellet was
solubilized in guanidine-HCl, and reduced with
2-mercaptoethanol.   The solubilized material was
passed through a gel filtration column, i.e.,
Sephacryl^{TM} S-300. Other methods such as ion exchange
could be used.

EXAMPLE 6

Folding of the Proteins

Purified material was dialyzed against water, and
the precipitate protein collected by centrifugation.
The protein was solubilized in urea and reduced with
2-mercaptoethanol.   This denatured and solubilized
material was dialyzed against a buffer containing salt
and reducing agents to establish the redox potential
to form the intra domain (one each for the light and
heavy chain variable region sequences) disulfide
bridges (Saxena and Wetlanfer, Biochem 9:5015-5023
(1970)). The folded protein was assayed for BGH bind-
ing activity.

The TRY59 protein used in competition experiments
was solubilized and renatured directly from inclu-
sions.   This material was subsequently purified by
affinity to BGH-Sepharose.

EXAMPLE 7

Binding Assay

BGH was immobilized on nitrocellulose strips along with non-specific proteins such as bovine serum albumin or lysozymes. Further non-specific protein binding was blocked with an immunologically inert protein, for example gelatin. Folded SCA was tested for its ability to bind to BGH. The SCA was detected by a rabbit anti-L chain (of the monoclonal) anti-serum. The rabbit antibodies were reacted with goat anti-rabbit IgG coupled to peroxidase. The strips were reacted with chemicals which react with the peroxidase to give a color reaction if the peroxidase is present.

Figure 35 shows the result of this spot assay for TRY61 (strip 1) and TRY40 (strip 2). Strip 3 was stained with amido black to show the presence of all three proteins. The other proteins, TRY59, TRY104b gave similar results in the spot assay. A competition assay with the SCA competing with the monoclonal can be used as well. The results of competing the F_{ab} of 3C2 monoclonal with 1 and 10 ug of TRY59 protein which had been affinity purified are shown in Figure 36 (▲ F_{ab} alone, ■ F_{ab} + 1 ug TRY59, and ● F_{ab} + 10 ug TRY59). The affinity estimated from the Ic_{50} of this experiment was approximately 10^6. The data are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1

Properties of the Proteins Produced by the Single-chain Constructions

Single-chain	Number of Linkers	Spot Test	Binding to BGH Column	Ka
TRY40	2	+	−	ND
TRY59	1	+	+	$\sim 10^8$
TRY61	1	+	−	ND
TRY104B	1	+	+	ND
SC2 monoclonal	NA	+	+	$10^8 - 10$

ND = not determined
NA = not applicable

WE CLAIM:

1. A single polypeptide chain binding molecule which has binding specificity substantially similar to the binding specificity of the light and heavy chain aggregate variable region of an antibody.

2. The molecule of claim 1 which comprises two peptide linkers joining said light and heavy chains into said single chain.

3. The molecule of claim 2 which comprises in sequence:
    (a) an N-terminal region derived from said light chain;
    (b) a peptide linker;
    (c) a peptide region derived from said heavy chain;
    (d) a second peptide linker; and
    (e) a C-terminal region derived from said light chain.

4. The molecule of claim 1 which comprises one peptide linker joining said light and heavy chains into said single chain.

5. The molecule of claim 4 which comprises, in sequence:
    (a) an N-terminal region derived from said light chain;
    (b) a peptide linker; and
    (c) a C-terminal region derived from said heavy chain.

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6.   The molecule of claim 4 which comprises in sequence:

      (a)   an N-terminal region derived from said heavy chain;

      (b)   a peptide linker; and

      (c)   a C-terminal region derived from said light chain.

7.   The molecule of claim 3, 5 or 6 which, prior to said N-terminal region (a), comprises a methionine residue.

8.   The molecule of claim 1 which is detectably labeled.

9.   The molecule of claim 1 which is in immobilized form.

10.   The molecule of claim 1 which is conjugated to an imaging agent.

11.   The molecule of claim 1 which is conjugated to a toxin.

12.   A genetic sequence coding for the molecule of claim 1.

13.   A recombinant DNA (rDNA) molecule comprising the sequence of claim 12.

14.   The rDNA molecule of claim 13 which is a replicable cloning or expression vehicle.

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15. The rDNA molecule of claim 14 wherein said vehicle is a plasmid.

16. A host cell transformed with the rDNA molecule of claim 13.

17. The host cell of claim 16 which is a bacterial cell, a yeast or other fungal cell or a mammalian cell line in vitro.

18. A method of producing a single polypeptide chain binding molecule which has binding specificity substantially similar to the binding specificity of the light and heavy chain aggregate variable region of an antibody, which comprises:
    (a) providing a genetic sequence coding for said molecule;
    (b) transforming a host cell with said sequence;
    (c) expressing said sequence in said host; and
    (d) recovering said molecule.

19. The method of claim 18 which further comprises purifying said recovered molecule.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein said host cell is a bacterial cell, yeast or other fungal cell, or a mammalian cell line.

21. The binding molecule produced by the method of claim 18 or 19.

22. In an immunoassay method which utilizes an antibody in labeled form, the improvement comprising using the molecule of claim 8 instead of said antibody.

23. In an immunoassay method which utilizes an antibody in immobilized form, the improvement comprising using the molecule of claim 9 instead of said antibody.

24. In the immunoassay of claim 21 or 22 wherein said immunoassay is a competitive immunoassay.

25. In the immunoassay of claim 21 or 22 wherein said immunoassay is a sandwich immunoassay.

26. In an immunotherapeutic method which utilizes an antibody conjugated to a therapeutic agent, the improvement comprising using the molecule of claim 1 instead of said antibody.

27. In a method of immunoaffinity purification which utilizes an antibody therefor, the improvement which comprises using the molecule of claim 1 instead of said antibody.

FIG. 1

FIG.2

| SITE SELECTION | —302 |

↓

| PICK CANDIDATE | —304 |

↓

| REJECT BAD CANDIDATES | —306 |

↓

FIG.3

| 402— | PICK DOMAIN I |

↓

| 404— | PICK DOMAIN 2 |

↓

| 406— | SELECT START-ING POINT (FIRST SITE) ON DOMAIN I |

↓

| 408— | SELECT FINAL POINT (SECOND SITE) ON DOMAIN 2 |

FIG.4

RESIDUE σI

N

HEAVY CHAIN H

- - - → INDICATES POSSIBLE LINKERS BETWEEN PLAUSIBLE SITES

• INDICATE POSSIBLE SITES

C

LIGHT CHAIN L

RESIDUE τI

FIG.7

SUBSTITU....

C

N

L   H

FIG.5A

N

C

F_v

LIGHT

C

N

N

C

F_v HEAVY   FIG.5B

RESIDUE $\sigma 1$

REGION IN WHICH
LINKER SHOULD END

C

N

L

H

FIG. 6A

N

RESIDUE $\tau 1$

C

REGION IN WHICH
LINKER SHOULD END

LIGHT

RESIDUE $\tau 1$

C

REGION IN WHICH
LINKER SHOULD BEGIN

N

N

RESIDUE $\sigma 1$

REGION IN WHICH
LINKER SHOULD END

C

HEAVY   FIG. 6B

FIG. 8A

FIG. 8B

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FROM STEP 302

PICK STANDARD POINT
AT THE FIRST SITE   902

PICK STANDARD POINT
AT THE SECOND SITE   904

CALCULATE DISTANCE
BETWEEN STANDARD
POINT OF FIRST SITE
AND STANDARD POINT   906
OF SECOND SITE TO
PRODUCE "SPAN OF
THE GAP"

CALCULATE THE DIS-
TANCE BETWEEN ENDS
OF EACH CANDIDATE   908
TO PRODUCE "SPAN OF
THE CANDIDATE" VALUE

DISCARD CANDIDATES   910
WHOSE SPAN OF THE
CANDIDATE VALUES
DIFFER FROM THE SPAN
OF THE GAP VALUE
≧ MAX LSQFIT ERROR

TO STEP 1002

FIG. 9

SUBSTITUTE SHEET

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910

ESTABLISH LOCAL COORDINATE SYSTEM
ON N TERMINAL RESIDUE OF GAP NUM-
BER J_{gap}
— 1002

CALCULATE AND STORE SPHERICAL POLAR
COORDINATES (r, θ, ϕ) OF REFERENCE
POINT IN C TERMINAL RESIDUE OF GAP
NUMBER J_{gap}
— 1004

DO FOR J_{gap} = 1 TO
NUMBER OF GAPS

ESTABLISH LOCAL COORDINATE SYSTEM
ON N TERMINAL RESIDUE OF CANDIDATE
NUMBER J_{cand}
— 1006

CALCULATE SPHERICAL POLAR COORDIN-
ATES (r, θ, ϕ) OF REFERENCE POINT IN
C TERMINAL RESIDUE OF CANDIDATE
NUMBER J_{cand}
— 1008

FIG. 10

COMPARE $(r, \theta, \phi)_{J_{gap}}$ WITH $(r, \theta, \phi)_{J_{cand}}$
— 1010

1012 CLOSE ENOUGH ? — YES → ENROLL J_{cand} FOR STEP 1202 — 1014

NO

1016 END OF LIST OF GAPS ? — YES → REJECT CANDID-ATE J_{cand} — 1018

NO

1020 NEXT GAP

1022 END OF CANDIDATE LIST? — YES → THROUGH — 1026

NO

1024 NEXT CANDIDATE

SUBSTITUTE

FIG. 11A

FIG. 11B

FIG. 11C

DECIDE THAT A PEPTIDE WILL BE
REPRESENTED BY 3, 4, OR 5 ATOMS — 1201

CANDIDATES
FROM STEP 1014

SELECT ONE OF THE CANDIDATES — 1202

PICK THE 3, 4, OR 5 ATOMS FROM
FIRST PEPTIDE OF CURRENT CAN-
DIDATE — 1204

PICK 3, 4, OR 5 ATOMS FROM LAST
PEPTIDE OF CURRENT CANDIDATE — 1206

PICK CORRESPONDING 6, 8, OR 10
ATOMS FROM ONE OF THE GAPS — 1208

LEAST-SQUARES FIT ATOMS FROM
CANDIDATE TO ATOMS FROM GAP — 1210

1212
FIT
CLOSE ENOUGH
?   YES

1214
ENROLL CANDIDATE
IN THIRD GROUP

NO
1216
YES   NEXT
GAP?

FIG. 12

NO MORE GAPS

REJECT CANDIDATE — 1218

1220
YES   MORE
CANDIDATES
?   NO

1222
THROUGH

FIG. 13

REJECT CANDIDATE IF ANY ATOM OF
LINKER COMES CLOSER THAN MINIMUM
ALLOWED SEPARATION TO ANY RETAINED   —1402
ATOM OF NATIVE STRUCTURE

PENALIZE CANDIDATE WHEN HYDROPHOBIC
RESIDUES HAVE HIGH EXPOSURE TO SOLVENT   —1404

PENALIZE CANDIDATE WHEN HYDROPHYLIC
RESIDUES HAVE LOW EXPOSURE TO SOLVENT   —1406

PROMOTE CANDIDATE WHEN HYDROPHOBIC RES-
IDUES HAVE LOW EXPOSURE TO SOLVENT   —1408

PROMOTE CANDIDATE WHEN HYDROPHYLIC RES-
IDUES HAVE HIGH EXPOSURE TO SOLVENT   —1410

PENALIZE CANDIDATE WHEN MAIN CHAIN FAILS
TO FORM HYDROGEN BOND   —1412

PENALIZE CANDIDATE WHEN MAIN CHAIN MAKES
USELESS EXCURSIONS INTO THE SOLVENT   —1414
REGION

PROMOTE CANDIDATE WHEN MAIN CHAIN
FORMS A HELIX   —1416

PROMOTE CANDIDATE WHEN MAIN CHAIN FORMS   —1418
A BETA SHEET WHICH FITS AGAINST EXISTING
BETA SHEETS

FIG. 14

REGION WHERE CHAINS ARE CLOSE

F_v

FIG. 15A

LIGHT

THESE CHAINS ARE CLOSE TOGETHER

F_v HEAVY   FIG. 15B

REGION IN WHICH
LINKER #2
SHOULD BEGIN

REGION IN WHICH
LINKER #2
SHOULD END

LINKER #1

F_v

FIG. 16A

LIGHT

REGION IN
WHICH LINKER
#2 WILL BEGIN
τ2 COULD BE
ANY OF THE
RESIDUES IN
DASHED LOOP

LINKER #1

REGION IN WHICH
LINKER #2
WILL END

F_v HEAVY   **FIG. 16B**

C — LOST

LOST

N

LINKER #2

LOST

LINKER #1

L

H

N

Fv

C

FIG. 17A

LIGHT

C

LINKER #1

N

LOST

N

LINKER #2

LOST

LOST

C

Fv

HEAVY

FIG. 17B

Fv   C   FIG. 18
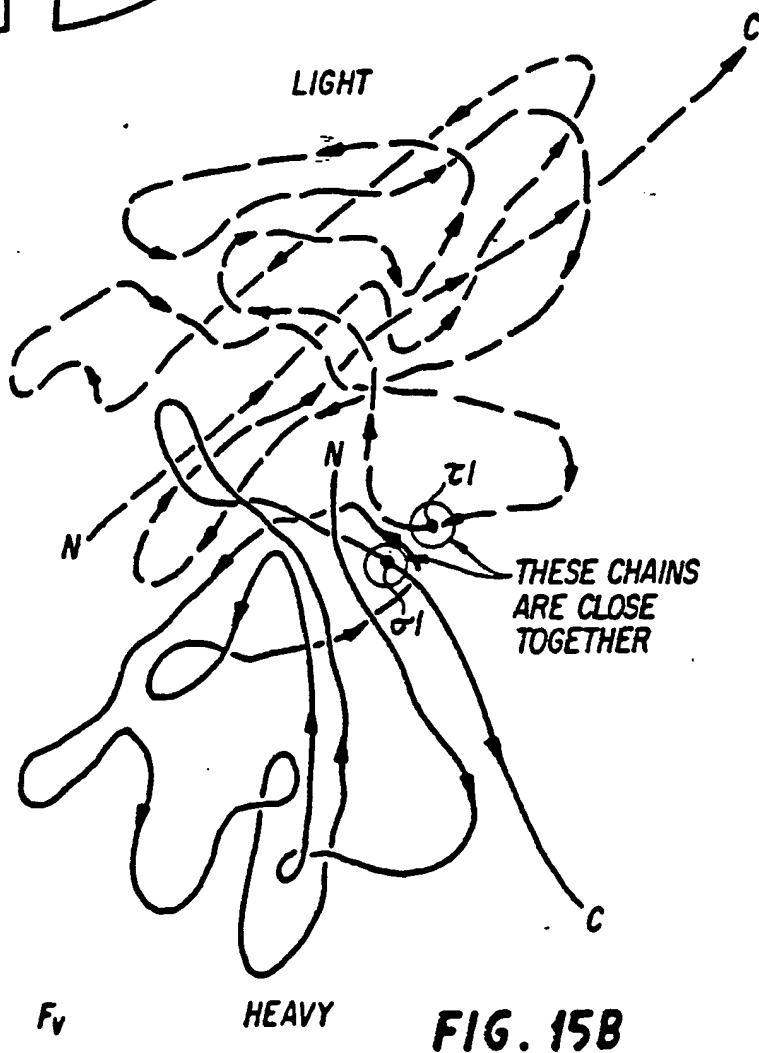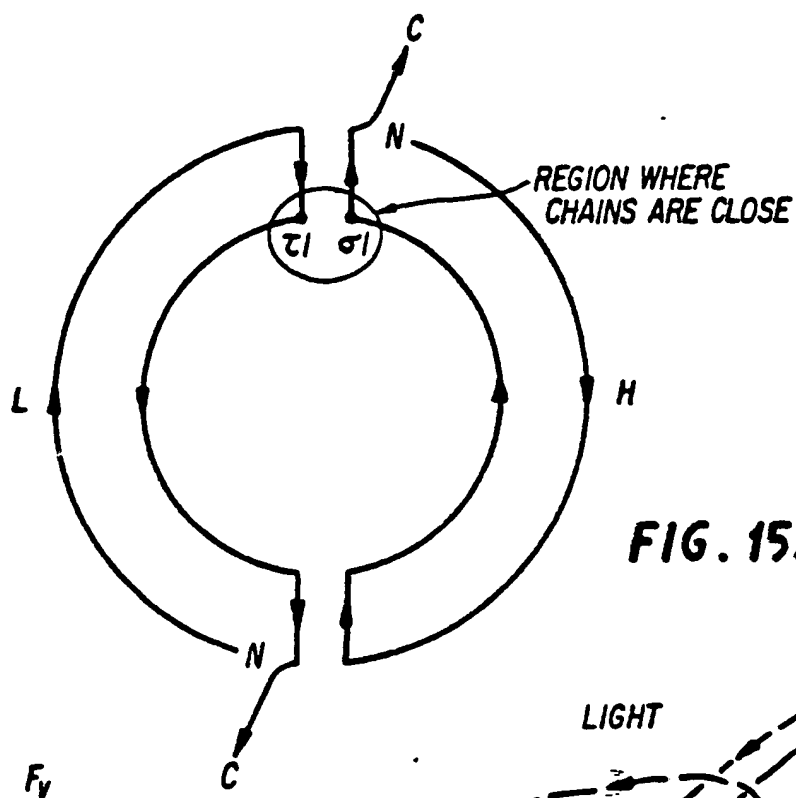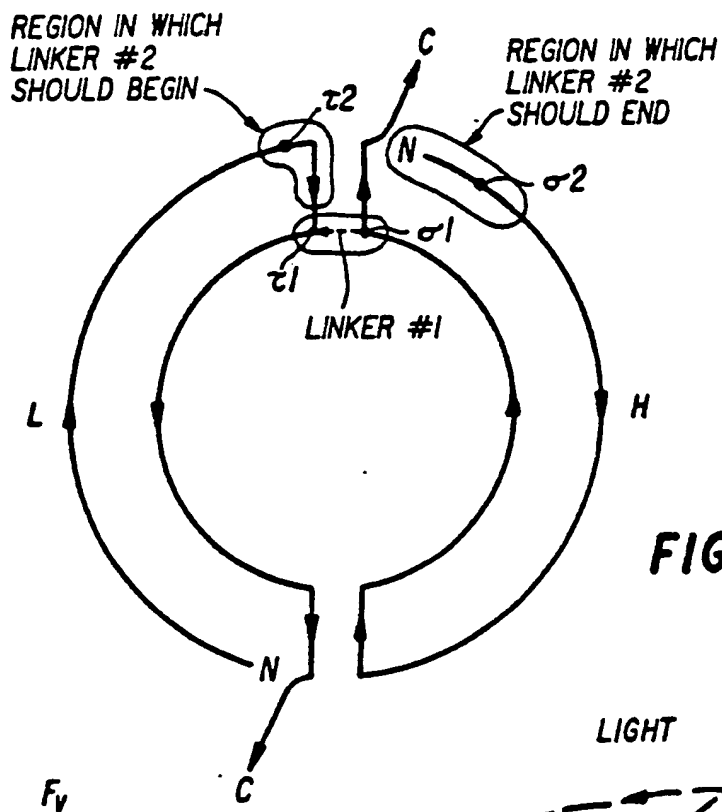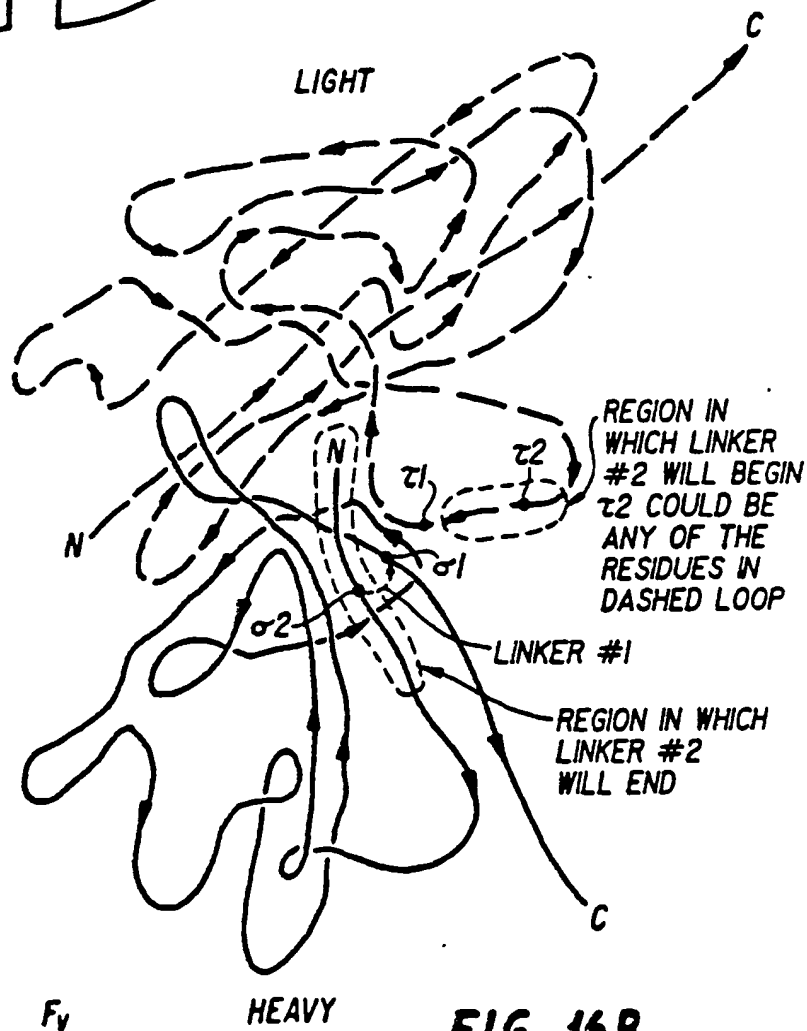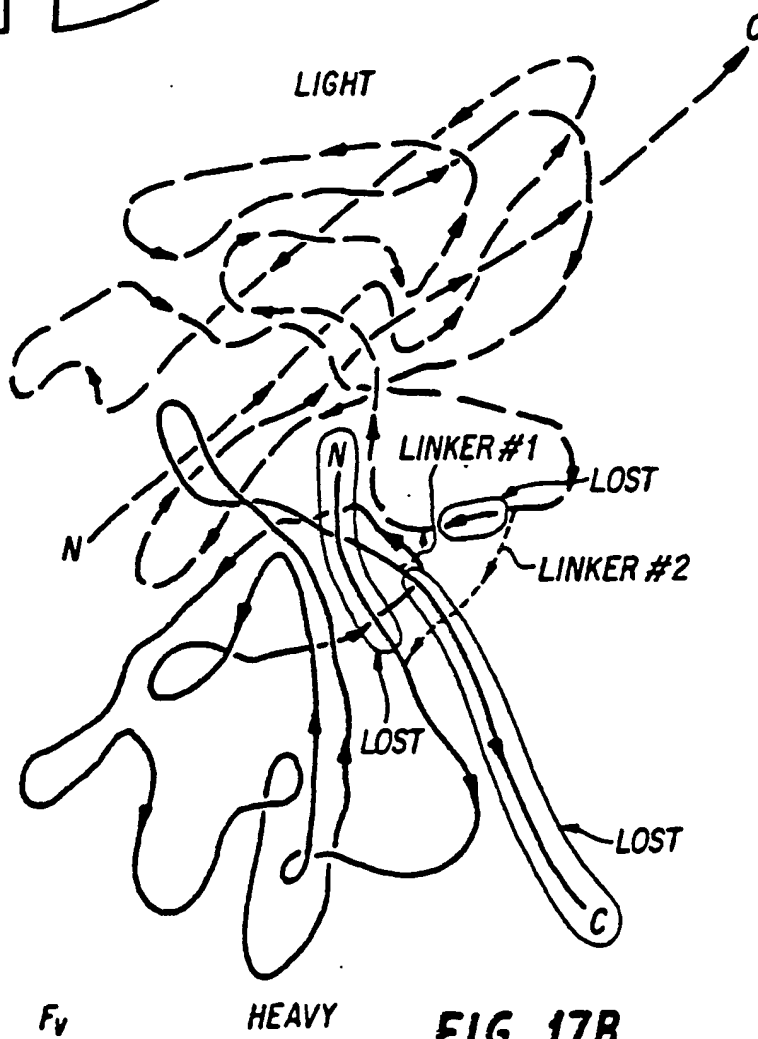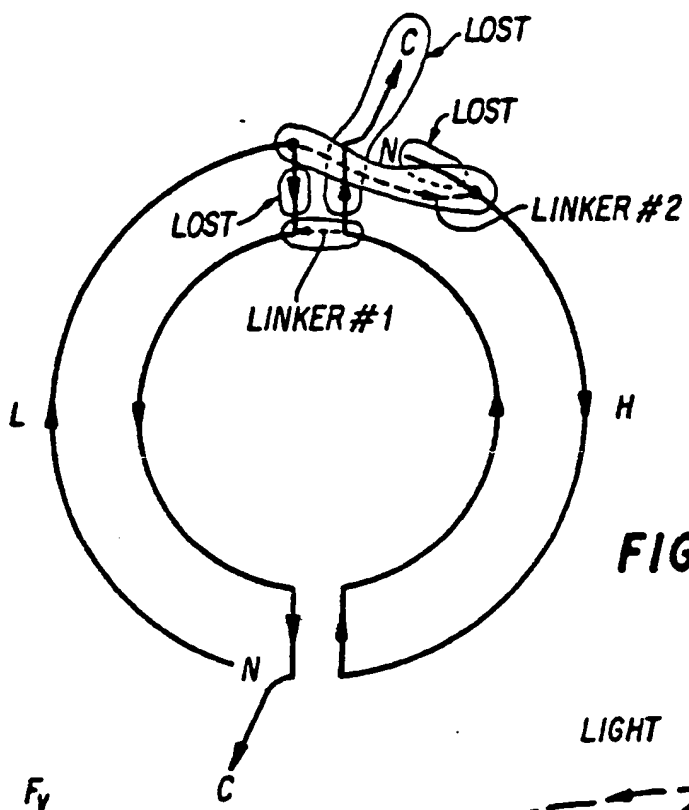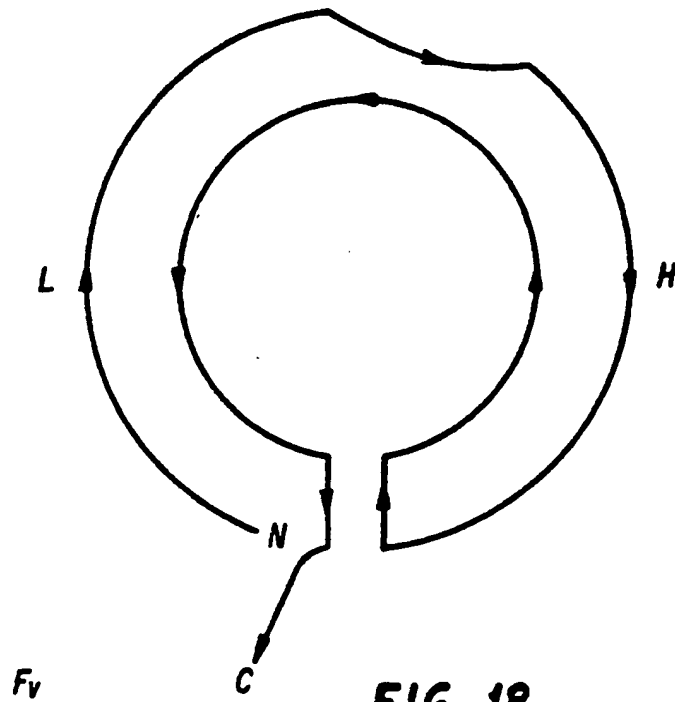
FIG. 19

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FIG. 20A

FIG. 20B

FIG. 20C

```
                    5                   10                  15                  20
Glu Val Gln Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Asp Leu Val Lys Pro Gly Gly Ser Leu Lys Leu
GAG GTG CAC CTG GTG GAG TCT GGG GGA GAC TTA GTG AAG CCT GGA GGG TCC CTG AAA CTC
                        25                  30                  35                  40
Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ile Ser Tyr Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Thr
TCC TGT GCA GCC TCT GGA TTC ACT TTC ATT AGC TAT GGC ATG TCT TGG GTT CGC CAG ACT
                            45                  50                  55                  60
Pro Asp Lys Arg Leu Glu Trp Val Ala Thr Ile Ser Ser Gly Ser Thr Tyr Thr Tyr Tyr
CCA GAC AAG AGG CTG GAG TGG GTC GCA ACC ATT AGT AGT GGT AGT ACT TAC ACC TAC TAT
                                65                  70                  75                  80
Pro Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Leu Tyr
CCA GAC AGT GTG AAG GGG CGA TTC ACC ATC TCC AGA GAC AAT GCC AAG AAC ACC CTG TAC
                                    85                  90                  95                  100
Leu Gln Met Ser Gly Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Met Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Arg Arg Ile
CTG CAA ATG AGC GGT CTG AAG TCT GAG GAC ACA GCC ATG TAT TAC TGT GCA AGA CGG ATT
                                        105                 110                 115                 120
Thr Thr Val Val Leu Thr Asp Tyr Tyr Ala Met Asp Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Ser Val
AGT ACG GTA GTA CTT ACG GAT TAC TAT GCT ATG GAC TAC TGG GGT CAA GGA ACC TCA GTC
                                            125                 130                 135                 140
Thr Val Ser Ser Ala Lys Thr Thr Pro Pro Ser Val Tyr Pro leu Ala Pro Gly Ser Ala
ACC GTC TCC TCA GCC AAA ACG ACA CCC CCA TCT GTC TAT CCA CTG GCC CCT GGA TCT GCT
                                                145                 150                 155                 160
Ala Gln Thr Asn Ser Met Val Thr Leu Gly Cys Leu Val Lys Gly Tyr Phe Pro Glu Pro
GCC CAA ACT AAC TCG ATG GTG ACC CTG GGA TGC CTG GTC AAG GGC TAT TTC CCT GAG CCA
                                                    165                 170                 175                 180
Val Thr Val Thr Trp Asn Ser Gly Ser Leu Ser Ser Gly Val His Thr Phe Pro Ala Val
GTG ACA GTG ACC TGG AAC TCT GGA TCC CTG TCC AGC GGT GTG CAC ACC TTC CCA GCT GTC
                                                        185                 190                 195                 200
Leu Gln Ser Asp Leu Tyr Thr Leu Ser Ser Val Thr Val Pro Ser Ser Thr Trp Pro
CTG CAG TCT GAC CTC TAC ACT CTG AGC AGC TCA GTG ACT GTG CCC TCC AGC ACC TGG CCC
                                                            205                 210                 215                 220
Ser Glu Thr Val Thr Cys Asn Val Ala His Pro Ala Ser Ser Thr Lys Val Asp Lys Lys
AGC GAG ACC GTC ACC TGC AAC GTT GCC CAC CCG GCG AGC ACC ACC AAG GTG GAC AAG AAA
                                                                225                 230                 235                 240
Ile Val Pro Arg Asp Cys Gly Cys Lys Pro Cys Ile Cys Thr Val Pro Glu Val Ser Ser
ATT GTG CCC AGG GAT TGT GGT TGT AAG CCT TGC ATA TGT ACA GTC CCA GAA GTA TCA TCT
                                                                    245                 250                 255                 260
Val Phe Ile Phe Pro Pro Lys Pro Lys Asp Val Leu Thr Ile Thr Leu Thr Pro Lys Val
GTC TTC ATC TTC CCC CCA AAG CCC AAG GAT GTG CTC ACC ATT ACT CTG ACT CCT AAG GTC
                                                                        265                 270                 275                 280
Thr Cys Val Val Val Asp Ile Ser Lys Asp Asp Pro Glu Val Gln Phe Ser Trp Phe Val
ACG TGT GTT GTG GTA GAC ATC AGC AAG GAT GAT CCC GAG GTC CAG TTC AGC TGG TTT GTA
                                                                            285                 290                 295                 300
Asp Asp Val Glu Val His Thr Ala Gln Thr Gln Pro Arg Glu Glu Gln Phe Asn Ser Thr
GAT GAT GTG GAG GTG CAC ACA GCT CAG ACG CAA CCC CGG GAG GAG CAG TTC AAC AGC ACT
                                                                                305                 310                 315                 320
Ser Arg Ser Val Ser Glu Leu Pro Ile Met His Gln Asp Trp Leu Asn Gly Lys Glu Phe
TCC CGC TCA GTC AGT GAA CTT CCC ATC ATG CAC CAG GAC TGG CTC AAT GGC AAG GAG TTC
                                                                                    325                 330                 335                 340
Lys Cys Arg Val Asn Ser Ala Ala Phe Pro Ala Pro Ile Glu Lys Thr Ile Ser Lys Thr
AAA TGC AGG GTC AAC AGT GCA GCT TTC CCT GCC CCC ATC GAG AAA ACC ATC TCC AAA ACC
                                                                                        345                 350                 355                 360
Lys Gly Arg Pro Lys Ala Pro Gln Val Tyr Thr Ile Pro Pro Pro Lys Glu Gln Met Ala
AAA GGC AGA CCG AAG GCT CCA CAG GTG TAC ACC ATT CCA CCT CCC AAG GAG CAG ATG GCC
                                                                                            365                 370                 375                 380
Lys Asp Lys Val Ser Leu Thr Cys Met Ile Thr Asp Phe Phe Pro Glu Asp Ile Thr Val
AAG GAT AAA CTC AGT CTG ACC TGC ATG ATA ACA GAC TTC TTC CCT GAA GAC ATT ACT GTG
                                                                                                385                 390                 395                 400
Glu Trp Gln Trp Asn Gly Gln Pro Ala Glu Asn Tyr Lys Asn Thr Gln Arg Ile Met Asn
GAG TGG CAG TGG AAT GGG CAG CCA GCG GAG AAC TAC AAG AAC ACT CAG CGC ATC ATG AAC
                                                                                                    405                 410                 415                 420
Thr Asn Gly Ser Tyr Phe Val Tyr Ser Lys Leu Asn Val Gln Lys Ser Asn Trp Glu Ala
ACG AAT GGC TCT TAC TTC GTC TAC AGC AAG CTC AAT GTG CAG AAG AGC AAC TGG GAG GCA
                                                                                                        425                 430                 435                 440
Gly Asn Thr Phe Thr Cys Ser Val Leu His Glu Gly Leu His Asn His His Thr Glu Lys
GGA AAT ACT TTC ACC TGC TCT GTG TTA CAT GAG GGC CTG CAC AAC CAC CAT ACT GAG AAG
                                            445
Ser Leu Ser His Ser Pro Gly Lys ***
AGC CTC TCC CAC TCT CCT GGT AAA TGA
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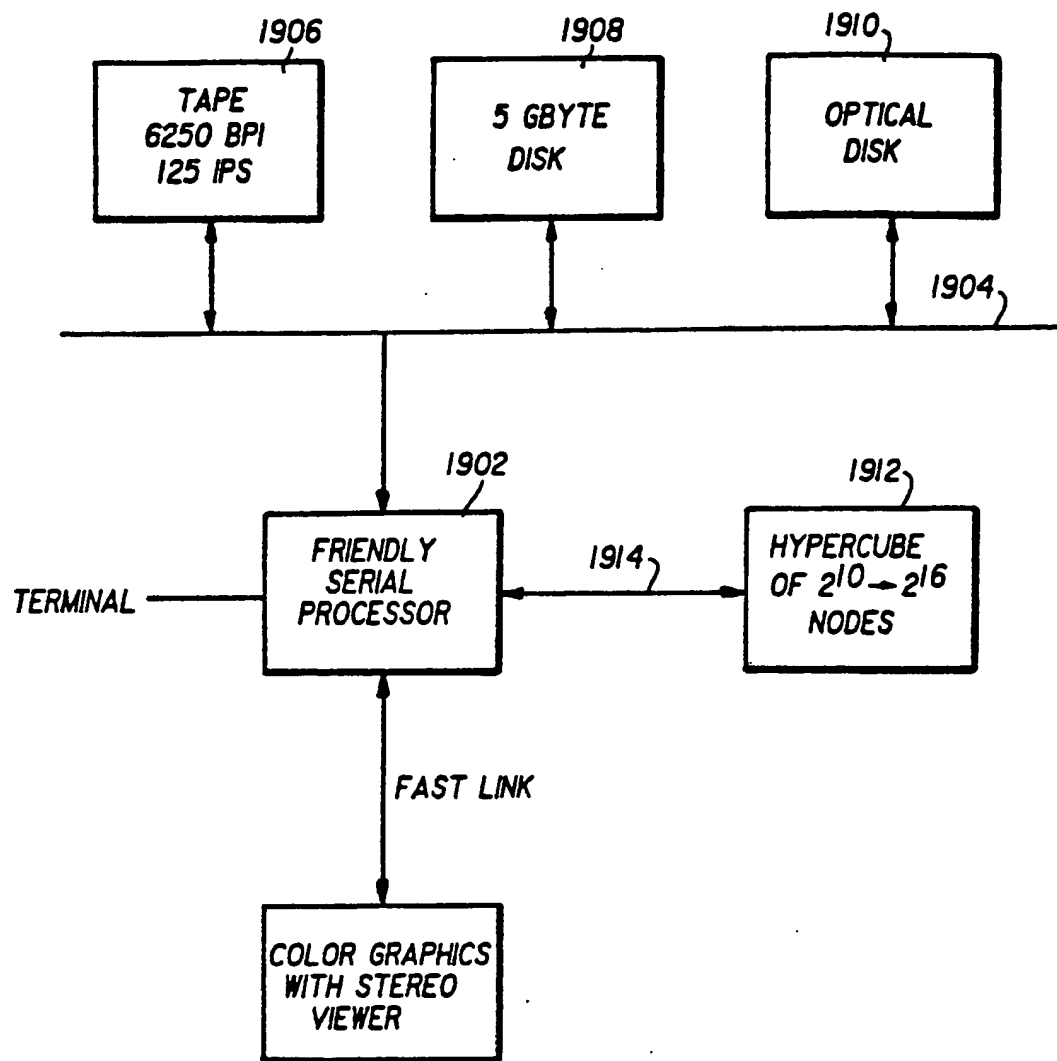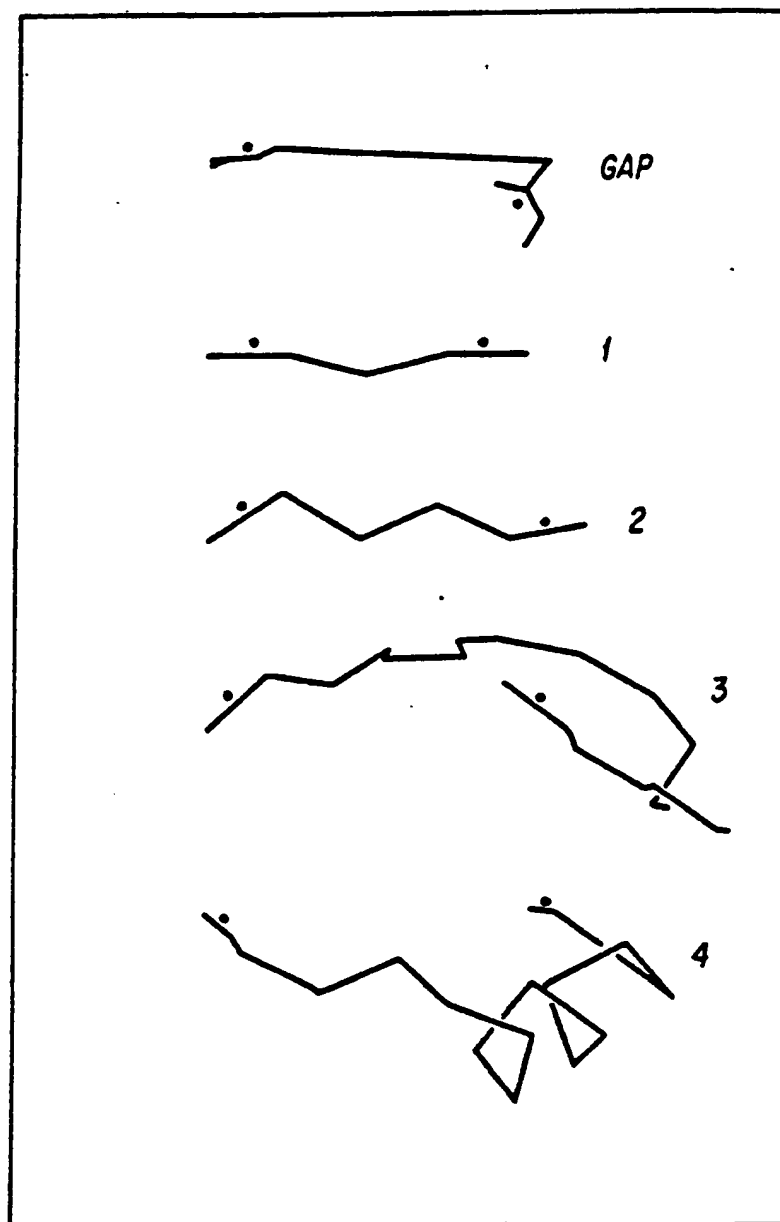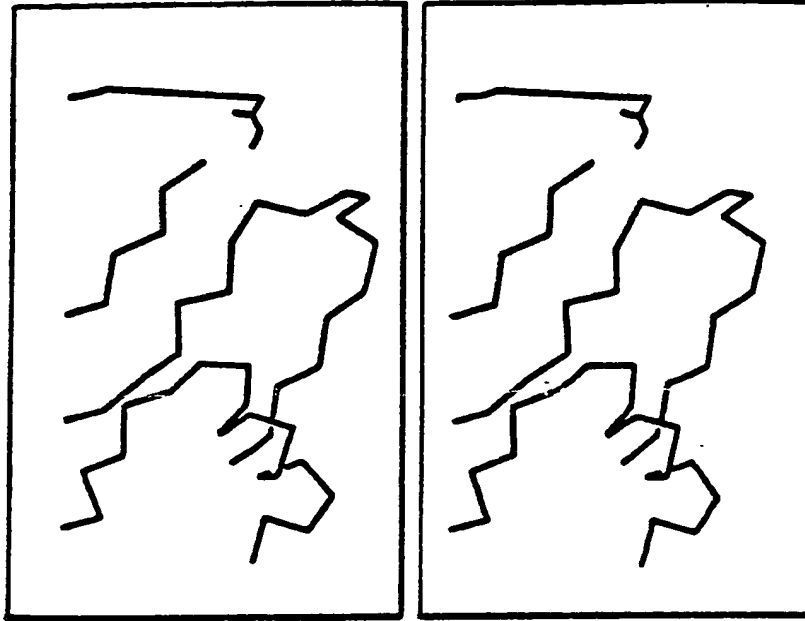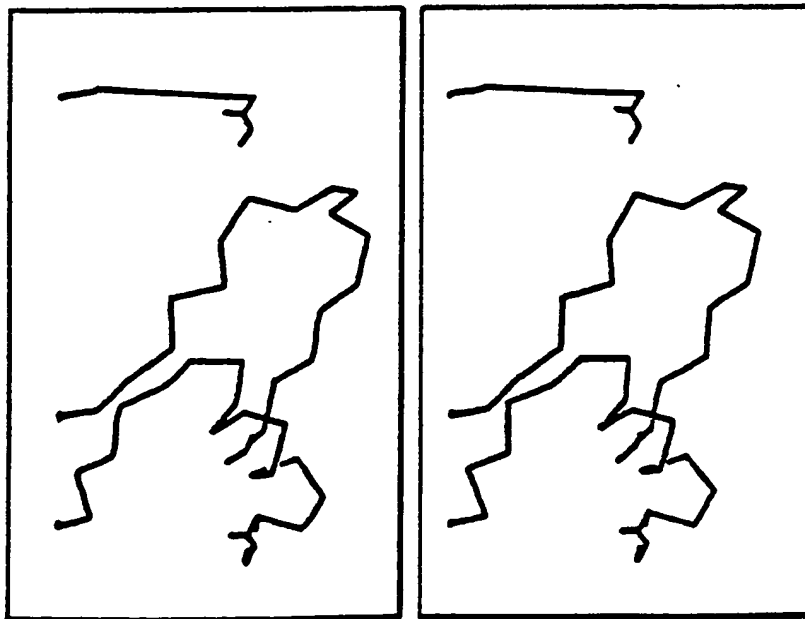
FIG. 21

```
                   5                    10                   15                   20
Glu Asn Val Leu Thr Gln Ser Pro Ala Ile Met Ser Ala Ser Pro Gly Glu Lys VAL Thr
GAA AAT GTG CTC ACC CAG TCT CCA GCA ATC ATG TCT GCA TCT CCA GGG GAA AAG GTC ACC

                        25                   30                   35                   40
Met Thr Cys Arg Ala Ser Ser Ser Val Ser Ser Ser Tyr Leu His Trp Phe Gln Gln Lys
ATG ACC TGC AGG GCC AGC TCA AGT GTA AGT TCC AGT TAC TTG CAC TGG TTC CAG CAG AAG

                        45                   50                   55                   60
Ser Gly Ala Ser Pro Lys Leu Trp Ile Tyr Ser Thr Ser Asn Leu Ala Ser Gly Val Pro
TCA GGT GCC TCC CCC AAA CTC TGG ATT TAT AGC ACA TCC AAC TTG GCT TCT GGA GTC CCT

                        65                   70                   75                   80
Ala Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser Gly Ser Gly Thr Ser Tyr Ser Leu Thr Ile Ser Ser Val Glu
GCT CGC TTC AGT GGC AGT GGG TCT GGG ACC TCT TAC TCT CTC ACA ATC AGC AGT GTG GAG

                        85                   90                   95                   100
Ala Glu Asp Ala Ala Thr Tyr Tyr Cys Gln Gln Tyr Ser Gly Tyr Pro Leu Thr Phe Gly
GCT GAA GAT GCT GCC ACT TAT TAC TGC CAG CAG TAC AGT GGT TAC CCA CTC ACG TTC GGT

                        105                  110                  115                  120
Ala Gly Thr Lys Leu Glu Leu Lys Arg Ala Asp Ala Ala Pro Thr Val Ser Ile Phe Pro
GCT GGG ACC AAG CTG GAG CTG AAA CGG GCT GAT GCT GCA CCA ACT GTA TCC ATC TTC CCA

                        125                  130                  135                  140
Pro Ser Ser Glu Gln Leu Thr Ser Gly Gly Ala Ser Val Val Cys Phe Leu Asn Asn Phe
CCA TCC AGT GAG CAG TTA ACA TCT GGA GGT GCC TCA GTC GTG TGC TTC TTG AAC AAC TTC

                        145                  150                  155                  160
Tyr Pro Lys Asp Ile Asn Val Lys Trp Lys Ile Asp Gly Ser Glu Arg Gln Asp Gly Val
TAC CCC AAA GAC ATC AAT GTC AAG TGG AAG ATT GAT GGC AGT GAA CGA CAA AAT GGC GTC

                        165                  170                  175                  180
Leu Asn Ser Trp Thr Asp Gln Asp Ser Lys Asp Ser Thr Tyr Ser Met Ser Ser Thr Leu
CTG AAC AGT TGG ACT GAT CAG GAC AGC AAA GAC AGC ACC TAC AGC ATG AGC AGC ACC CTC

                        185                  190                  195                  200
Thr Leu Thr Lys Asp His Glu Tyr Glu Arg His Asn Ser Tyr Thr Cys Glu Ala Thr His Lys
ACG TTG ACC AAG GAC GAG TAT GAA CGA CAT AAC AGC TAT ACC TGT GAG GCC ACT CAC AAG

                        205                  210                  215
Thr Ser Thr Ser Pro Ile Val Lys Ser Phe Asn Arg Asn Glu Cys ***
ACA TCA ACT TCA CCC ATT GTC AAG AGC TTC AAC AGG AAT GAG TGT TAG
```

FIG. 22

FIG. 23A

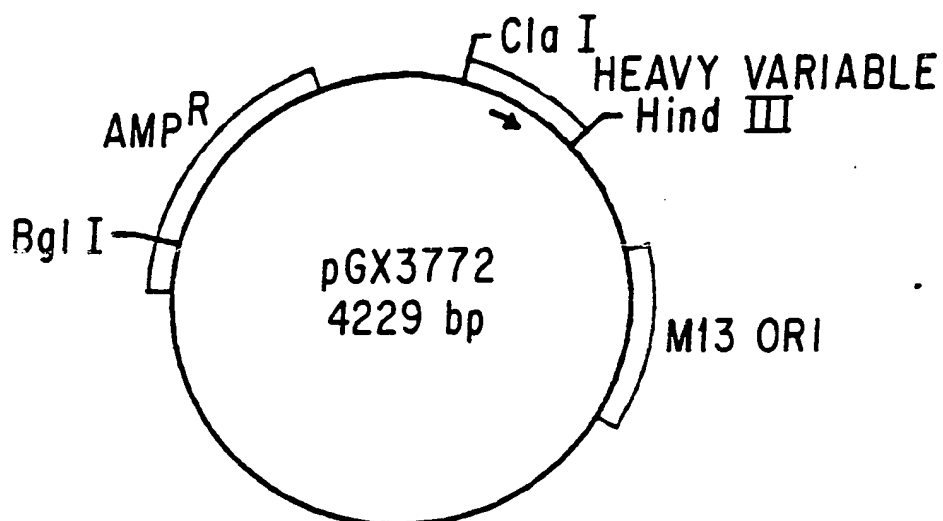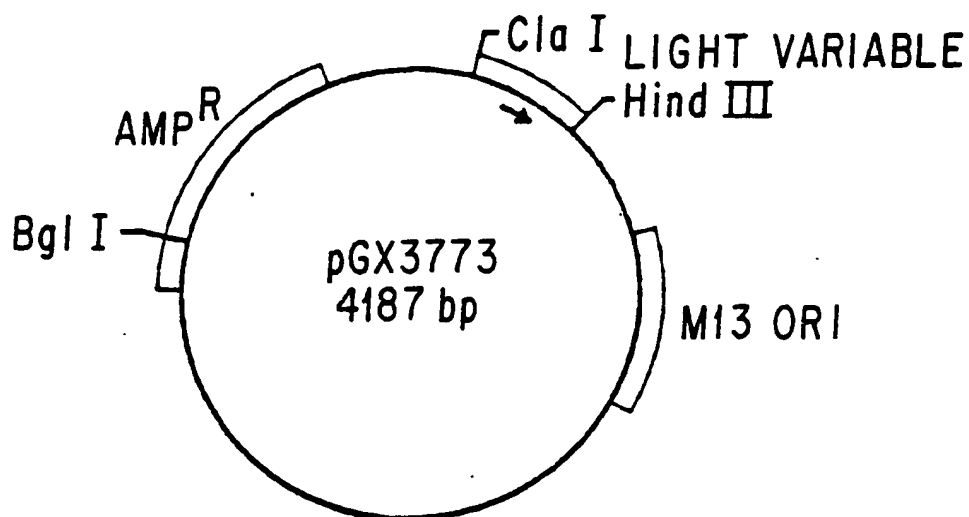FIG. 23B

```
                    5                      10                     15                     20
Met Glu Asn Val Leu Thr Gln Ser Pro Ala Ile Met Ser Ala Ser Pro Gly Glu Lys Val
ATG GAA AAT GTG CTC ACC CAG TCT CCA GCA ATC ATG TCT GCA TCT CCA GGG GAA AAG GTC
                    25                     30                     35                     40
Thr Met Thr Cys Arg Ala Ser Ser Ser Val Ser Ser Ser Tyr Leu His Trp Phe Gln Gln
ACC ATG ACC TGC AGG GCC AGC TCA AGT GTA AGT TCC AGT TAC TTG CAC TGG TTC CAG CAG
                    45                     50                     55                     60
Lys Ser Ile Ala Lys Ala Phe Lys Asn Gly Gly Asp Leu Val Lys Pro Gly Gly Ser Leu
AAG TCA ATC GCG AAA GCG TTC AAA AAC GGG GGA GAC TTA GTG AAG CCT GGA GGG TCC CTG
                    65                     70                     75                     80
Lys Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ile Ser Tyr Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg
AAA CTC TCC TGT GCA GCC TCT GGA TTC ACT TTC ATT AGC TAT GGC ATG TCT TGG GTT CGC
                    85                     90                     95                     100
Gln Thr Pro Asp Lys Arg Leu Glu Trp Val Ala Thr Ile Ser Ser Gly Ser Thr Tyr Thr
CAG ACT CCA GAC AAG AGG CTG GAG TGG GTC GCA ACC ATT AGT GGT GGT AGT ACT TAC ACC
                    105                    110                    115                    120
Tyr Tyr Pro Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr
TAC TAT CCA GAC AGT GTG AAG GGG CGA TTC ACC ATC TCC AGA GAC AAT GCC AAG AAC ACC
                    125                    130                    135                    140
Leu Tyr Leu Gln Met Ser Gly Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Met Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Arg
CTG TAC CTG CAA ATG AGC GGT CTG AAG TCT GAG GAC ACA GCC ATG TAT TAC TGT GCA AGA
                    145                    150                    155                    160
Arg Ile Thr Thr Val Leu Thr Asp Tyr Tyr Ala Met Asp Tyr Trp Gly Pro Gly Ser
CGG ATT ACT ACG GTA GTA CTT ACG GAT TAC TAT GCT ATG GAC TAC TGG GGT CCG GGT TCT
                    165                    170                    175                    180
Pro Lys Leu Trp Ile Tyr Ser Thr Ser Asn Leu Ala Ser Gly Val Pro Ala Arg Phe Ser
CCC AAA CTC TGG ATT TAT AGC ACA TCC AAC TTG GCT TCT GGA GTC CCT GCT CGC TTC AGT
                    185                    190                    195                    200
Gly Ser Gly Ser Gly Thr Ser Tyr Ser Leu Thr Ile Ser Ser Val Glu Ala Glu Asp Ala
GGC AGT GGG TCT GGG ACC TCT TAC TCT CTC ACA ATC AGC AGT GTG GAG GCT GAA GAT GCT
                    205                    210                    215                    220
Ala Thr Tyr Tyr Cys Gln Gln Tyr Ser Gly Tyr Pro Leu Thr Phe Gly Ala Gly Thr Lys
GCC ACT TAT TAC TGC CAG CAG TAC AGT GGT TAC CCA CTC ACG TTC GGT GCT GGG ACC AAG
                    225
Leu Glu Leu Lys Arg ***
CTG GAG CTG AAA CGG TAA
```

FIG. 24

FIG. 25

FIG. 27

TRY61
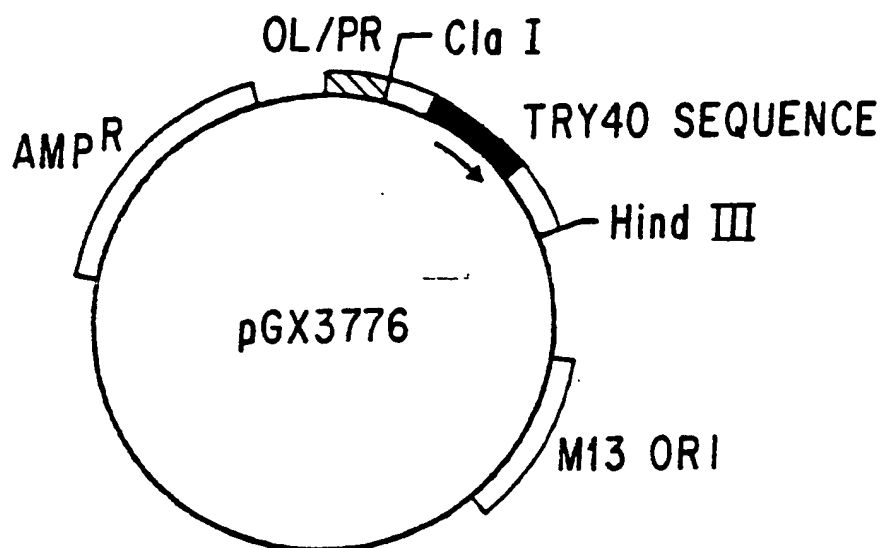sca try 61
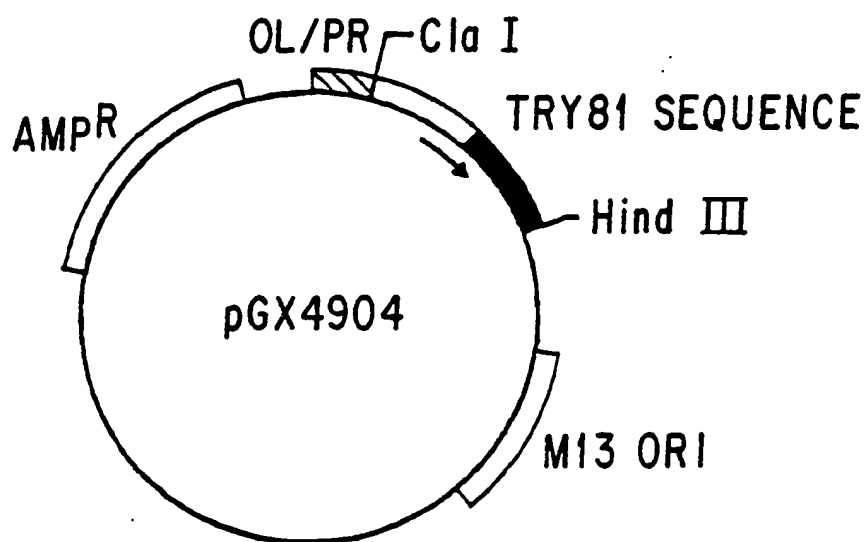
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                    5                      10                     15                     20
Met Glu Asn Val Leu Thr Gln Ser Pro Ala Ile Met Ser Ala Ser Pro Gly Glu Lys Val
ATG GAA AAT GTG CTC ACC CAG TCT CGA GCA ATC ATG TCT GCA TCT CCA GGG GAA AAG GTC
                    25                     30                     35                     40
Thr Met Thr Cys Arg Ala Ser Ser Ser Val Ser Ser Ser Tyr Leu His Trp Phe Gln Gln
ACC ATG ACC TGC AGG GCC AGC TCA AGT GTA AGT TCC AGT TAC TTG CAC TGG TTC CAG CAG
                    45                     50                     55                     60
Lys Ser Gly Ala Ser Pro Lys Leu Trp Ile Tyr Ser Thr Ser Asn Leu Ala Ser Gly Val
AAG TCA GGT GCC TCC CCC AAA CTC TGG ATT TAT AGC ACA TCC AAC TTC GCT TCT GGA GTC
                    65                     70                     75                     80
Pro Ala Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser Gly Ser Gly Thr Ser Tyr Ser Leu Thr Ile Ser Ser Val
CCT GCT CGC TTC AGT GGC AGT GGG TCT GGG ACC TCT TAC TCT CTC ACA ATC AGC AGT GTG
                    85                     90                     95                     100
Glu Ala Glu Asp Ala Ala Thr Tyr Tyr Cys Gln Gln Tyr Ser Gly Tyr Pro Leu Thr Phe
GAG GCT GAA GAT GCT GCC ACT TAT TAC TGC CAG TAC AGT GGT GGT TAC CCA CTC ACG TTC
                    105                    110                    115                    120
Gly Ala Gly Thr Lys Val Arg Gly Ser Pro Ala Ile Asn Val Ala Val His Val Phe Ser
GGT GCT GGG ACC AAG GTT CGT GGT TCT CCG GCA ATC AAC GTA GCT GTA CAC GTA TTC TCT
                    125                    130                    135                    140
Gly Gly Asp Leu Val Lys Pro Gly Gly Ser Leu Lys Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe
GGG GGA GAC TTA GTG AAG CCT GGA GGG TCC CTG AAA CTC TCC TGT GCA GCC TCT GGA TTC
                    145                    150                    155                    160
Thr Phe Ile Ser Tyr Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Thr Pro Asp Lys Arg Leu Glu Trp
ACT TTC ATT AGC TAT GGC ATG TCT TGG GTT CGC CAG ACT CCA GAC AAG AGG CTG GAG TGG
                    165                    170                    175                    180
Val Ala Thr Ile Ser Ser Gly Ser Thr Tyr Thr Tyr Tyr Pro Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg
GTC GCA ACC ATT AGT AGT GGT AGT ACT TAC ACC TAC TAT CCA GAC AGT GTG AAG GGG CGA
                    185                    190                    195                    200
Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Leu Tyr Leu Gln Met Ser Gly Leu Lys
TTC ACC ATC TCC AGA GAC AAT GCC AAG AAC ACC CTG TAC CTG CAA ATG AGC GGT CTG AAG
                    205                    210                    215                    220
Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Met Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Arg Arg Ile Thr Thr Val Val Leu Thr Asp
TCT GAG GAC ACA GCC ATG TAT TAC TGT GCA AGA CGG ATT ACT ACG GTA GTA CTT ACG GAT
                    225                    230                    235
Tyr Tyr Ala Met Asp Tyr Trp Gly Thr Gly Thr Ser Val Thr Val Ser ***
TAC TAT GCT ATG GAC TAC TGG GGT CAA GGA ACC TCA GTC ACC GTC TCC TAA
```

FIG. 26

```
                5                  10                 15                  20
Met Glu Asn Val Leu Thr Gln Ser Pro Ala Ile Met Ser Ala Ser Pro Gly Glu Lys Val
ATG GAA AAT GTG CTC ACC CAG TCT CGA GCA ATC ATG TCT GCA TCT CCA GGG GAA AAG GTC
                25                 30                 35                  40
Thr Met Thr Cys Arg Ala Ser Ser Ser Val Ser Ser Ser Tyr Leu His Trp Phe Gln Gln
ACC ATG ACC TGC AGG GCC AGC TCA AGT GTA AGT TCC AGT TAC TTG CAC TGG TTC CAG CAG
                45                 50                 55                  60
Lys Ser Gly Ala Ser Pro Lys Leu Trp Ile Tyr Ser Thr Ser Asn Leu Ala Ser Gly Val
AAG TCA GGT GCC TCC CCC AAA CTC TGG ATT TAT AGC ACA TCC AAC TTC GCT TCT GGA GTC
                65                 70                 75                  80
Pro Ala Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser Gly Ser Gly Thr Ser Tyr Ser Leu Thr Ile Ser Ser Val
CCT GCT CGC TTC AGT GGC AGT GGG TCT GGG ACC TCT TAC TCT CTC ACA ATC AGC AGT GTG
                85                 90                 95                  100
Glu Ala Glu Asp Ala Ala Thr Tyr Tyr Cys Gln Gln Tyr Ser Gly Tyr Pro Leu Thr Phe
GAG GCT GAA GAT GCT GCC ACT TAT TAC TGC CAG TAC AGT GGT GGT TAC CCA CTC ACG TTC
                105                110                115                 120
Gly Ala Gly Thr Lys Leu Lys Glu Ser Gly Ser Val Ser Ser Glu Gln Leu Ala Gln Phe
GGT GCT GGG ACC AAG CTG AAA GAA TCT GGT TCT GTT TCT TCT GAA CAG CTG GCT CAG TTT
                125                130                135                 140
Arg Ser Leu Asp Val Gln Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Asp Leu Val Lys Pro Gly Gly Ser
CGT TCT CTG GAT GTG CAG CTG GTG GAG TCT GGG GGA GAC TTA GTG AAG CCT GGA GGG TCC
                145                150                155                 160
Leu Lys Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ile Ser Tyr Gly Met Ser Trp Val
CTG AAA CTC TCC TGT GCA GCC TCT GGA TTC ACT TTC ATT AGC TAT GGC ATG TCT TGG GTT
                165                170                175                 180
Arg Gln Thr Pro Asp Lys Arg Leu Glu Trp Val Ala Thr Ile Ser Ser Gly Ser Thr Tyr
CGC CGA ACT CCA GAC AAG AGG CTG GAG TGG GTC GCA ACC ATT AGT AGT GGT AGT ACT TAC
                185                190                195                 200
Thr Tyr Tyr Pro Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn
ACC TAC TAT CCA GAC AGT GTG AAG GGG CGA TTC ACC ATC TCC AGA GAC AAT GCC AAG AAC
                205                210                215                 220
Thr Leu Tyr Leu Gln Met Ser Gly Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Met Tyr Tyr Cys Ala
ACC CTG TAC CTG CAA ATG AGC GGT CTG AAG TCT GAG GAC ACA GCC ATG TAT TAC TGT GCA
                225                230                235                 240
Arg Arg Ile Thr Thr Val Val Leu Thr Asp Tyr Tyr Ala Met Asp Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly
AGA CGG ATT ACT ACG GTA GTA CTT ACG GAT TAC TAT GCT ATG GAC TAC TGG GGT CAA GGA
                245
Thr Ser Val Thr Val Ser ***
ACC TCA GTC ACC GTC TCC TAA~
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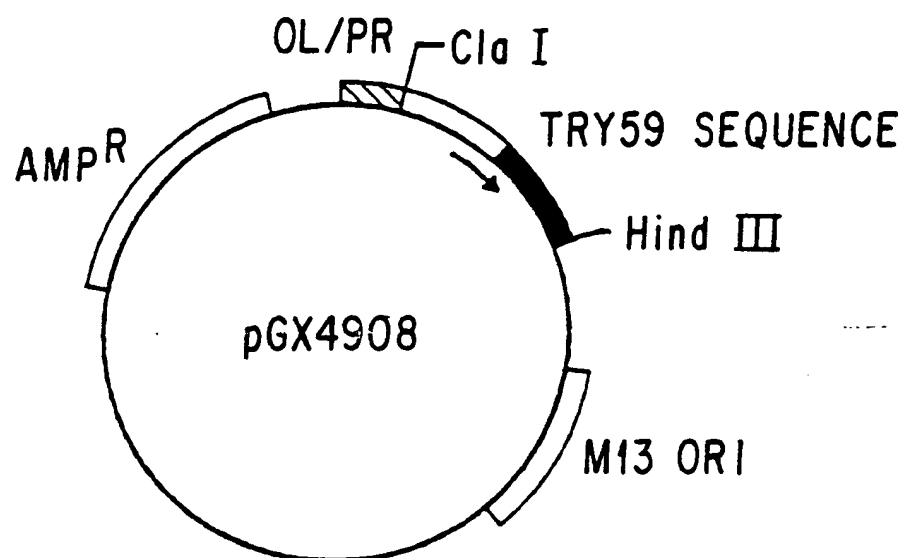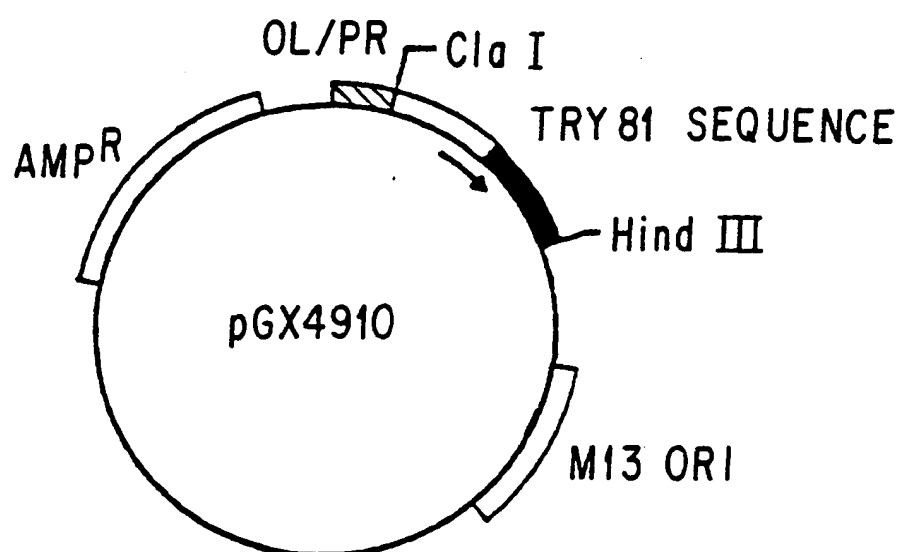
FIG. 28

FIG. 29

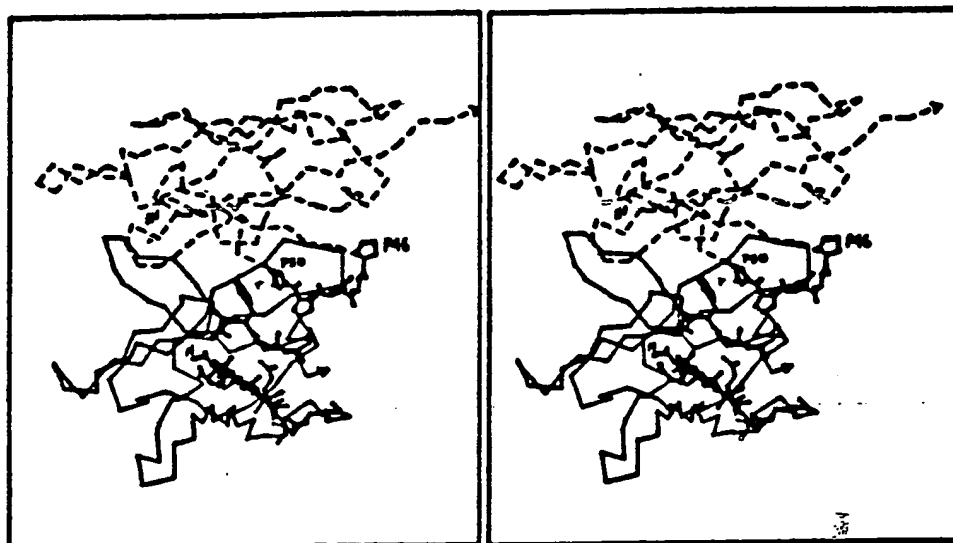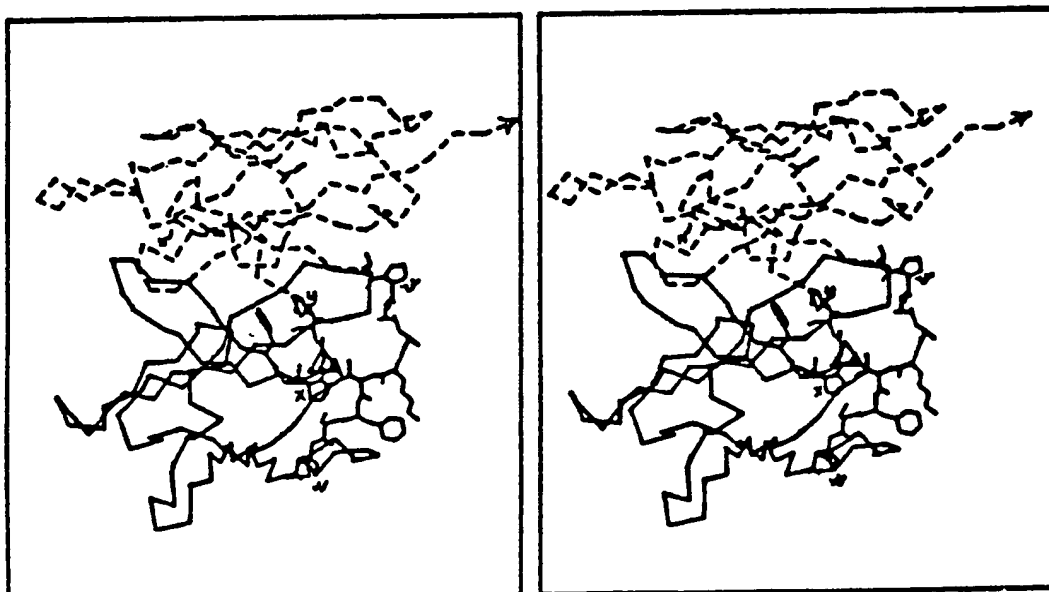FIG. 34

FIG. 30A

FIG. 30B

FIG. 30C

FIG. 30D

FIG. 31A

FIG. 31B

FIG. 32A

FIG. 32B
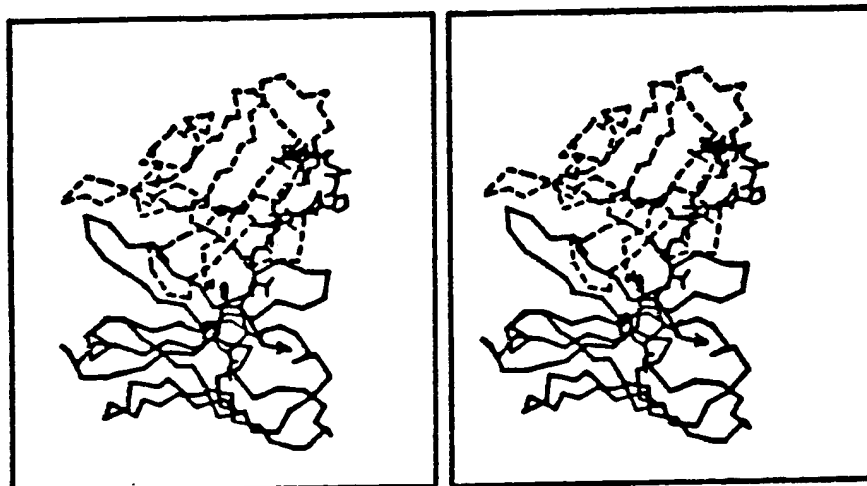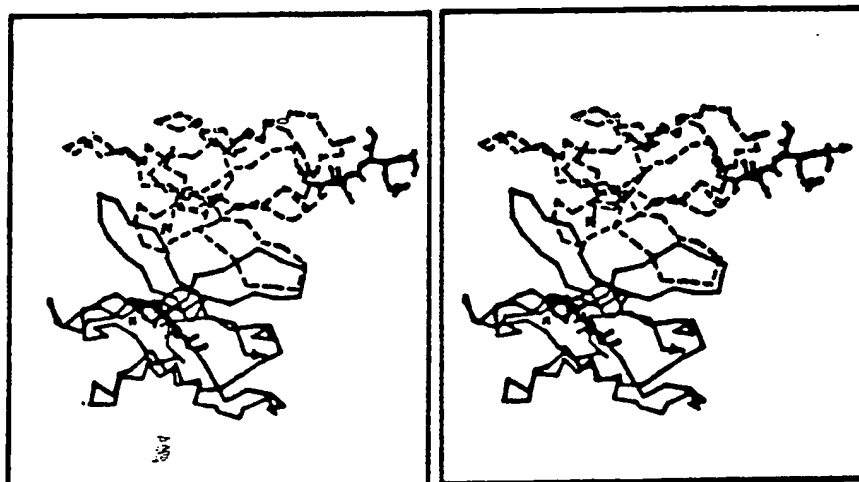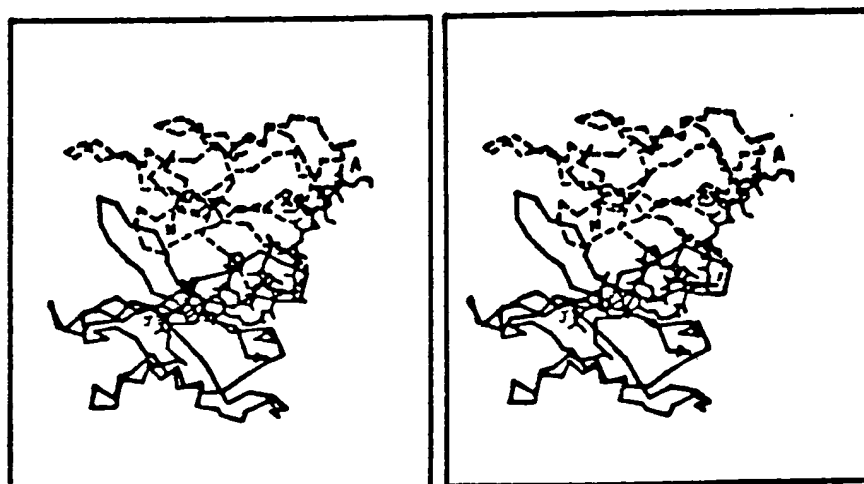
TRYO4B
SCA TRY104B, ALL OF VL AND VH

```
                    5                    10                   15                   20
Met Glu Asn Val Leu Thr Gln Ser Pro Ala Ile Met Ser Ala Ser Pro Gly Glu Lys Val
ATG GAA AAT GTG CTC ACC CAG TCT CCA GCA ATC ATG TCT GCA TCT CCA GGG GAA AAG GTC
                    25                   30                   35                   40
Thr Met Thr Cys Arg Ala Ser Ser Ser Val Ser Ser Ser Tyr Leu His Trp Phe Gln Gln
ACC ATG ACC TGC AGG GCC AGC TCA AGT GTA AGT TCC AGT TCC AGT TAC TGG TTC CAG CAG
                    45                   50                   55                   60
Lys Ser Gly Ala Ser Pro Lys Leu Trp Ile Tyr Ser Thr Ser Asn Leu Ala Ser Gly Val
AAG TCA GGT GCC TCC CCC AAA CTC TGG ATT TAT AGC ACA TCC AAC TTG GCT TCT GGA GTC
                    65                   70                   75                   80
Pro Ala Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser Gly Ser Gly Thr Ser Tyr Ser Leu Thr Ile Ser Ser Val
CCT GCT CGC TTC AGT GGC AGT GGG TCT GGG ACC TCT TAC TCT CTC ACA ATC AGC AGT GTG
                    85                   90                   95                   100
Glu Ala Glu Asp Ala Ala Thr Tyr Tyr Cys Gln Gln Tyr Ser Gly Tyr Pro Leu Thr Phe
GAG GCT GAA GAT GCT GCC ACT TAT TAC TGC CAG CAG TAC AGT GGT TAC CCA CTC ACG TTC
                    105                  110                  115                  120
Gly Ala Gly Thr Lys Leu Glu Ala Glu Gly Thr Leu Ser Pro Ala Asp Lys Thr Asn Val
GGT GCT GGG ACC AAG CTG GAG GCA GAA GGC ACT CTG TCT CCA GCA GAT AAA ACT AAC GTT
                    125                  130                  135                  140
Lys Ala Ala Trp Gly Lys Val Met Thr Gln Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Asp Leu Val Lys
AAA GCA GCA TGG GGC AAA GTT ATG ACT CAG CTG GTG GAG TCT GGG GGA GAC TTA GTG AAG
                    145                  150                  155                  160
Pro Gly Gly Ser Leu Lys Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ile Ser Tyr Gly
CCT GGA GGG TCC CTG AAA CTC TCC TGT GCA GCA TCT GGA TTC ACT TTC ATT AGC TAT GGC
                    165                  170                  175                  180
Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Thr Pro Asp Lys Arg Leu Glu Trp Val Ala Thr Ile Ser Ser
ATG TCT TGG GTT CGC CAG ACT CCA GAC AAG AGG CTG GAG TGG GTC GCA ACC ATT AGT AGT
                    185                  190                  195                  200
Gly Ser Thr Tyr Thr Tyr Tyr Pro Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp
GGT AGT ACT TAC ACC TAC TAT CCA GAC AGT GTG AAG GGG CGA TTC ACC ATC TCC AGA GAC
                    205                  210                  215                  220
Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Leu Tyr Leu Gln Met Ser Gly Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Met
AAT GCC AAG AAC ACC CTG TAC CTG CAA ATG AGC GGT CTG AAG TCT GAG GAC ACA GCC ATG
                    225                  230                  235                  240
Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Arg Arg Ile Thr Thr Val Val Leu Thr Asp Tyr Tyr Ala Met Asp Tyr
TAT TAC TGT GCA AGA CGG ATT ACT ACG GTA GTA CTT ACG GAT TAC TAT GCT ATG GAC TAC
                    245                  250
Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Ser Val Thr Val Ser ***
TGG GGT CAA GGA ACC TCA GTC ACC GTC TCC TAA
```
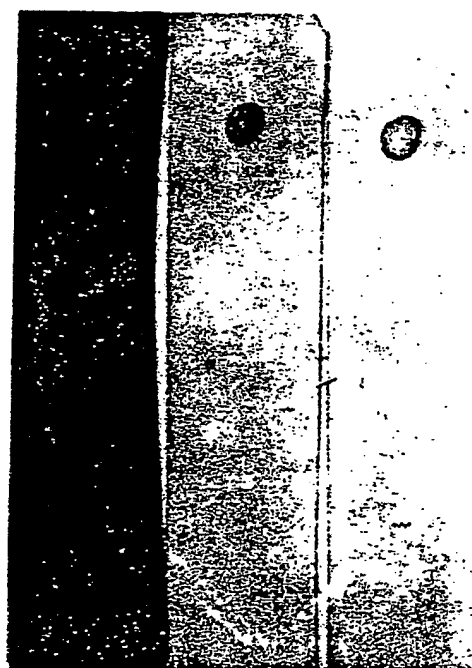
FIG. 33

FIG. 35
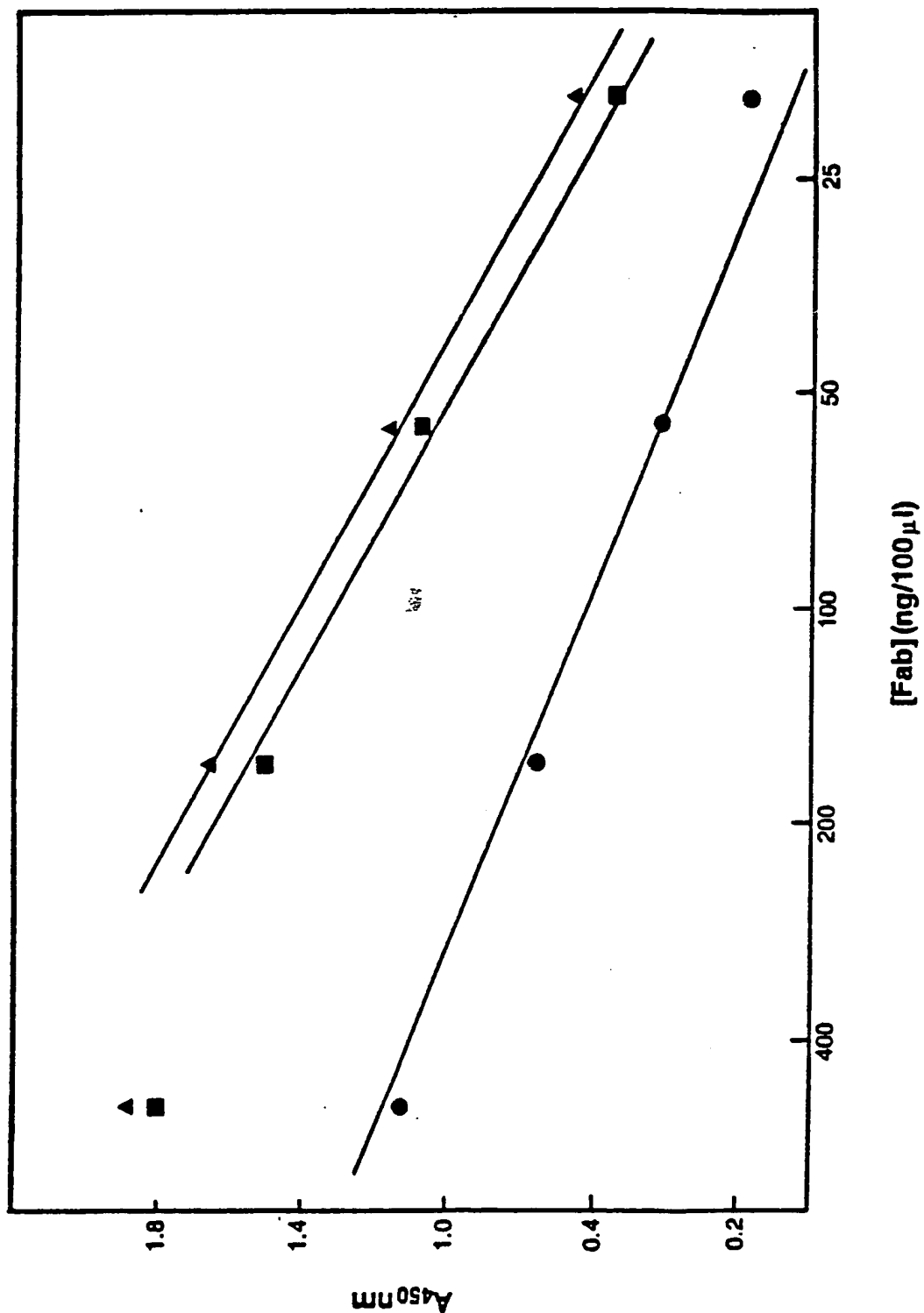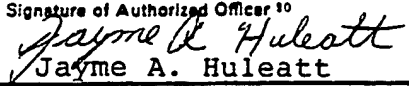

BGH

BSA

LYSOZYME

FIG.36
Competitive Elisa

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/US87/02208

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) [3]

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC

U.S.Cl.: 435/68 536/27 530/387 424/85

IPC(4): C12P 21/00 C07H 17/00 C07K 15/04 A61K 39/395

II. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum Documentation Searched [4]   [c]

Classification System	Classification Symbols
U.S.	435/7,68,91,172.3,240.2,253,254,255,320 530/387,388,389,390,391,413 536/27 424/85

Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation
to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched [5]

Chemical Abstracts Data Base 1967-1987 Keywords: Antibod?, Variable Region, Conformation, FOLD?, Peptide, Linker, Heavy chain, Light chain, chimeric antibod?, monospecific antibod?

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT [14]

Category [*]	Citation of Document, [16] with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages [17]	Relevant to Claim No. [18]
Y	GB, A, 2,137,631A (BOSS ET AL) 10 October 1984. See pages 3-6, 9-16 and claims 1-7 and 19-33.	1-27
Y	EP, A, 0,125,023 (CABILLY ET AL) 14 November 1984. See pages 3, 4, 15-18, and 21-29.	1-27
P, A	SCIENCE, Volume 81, issued August 1987, (Washington, D.C., USA) (R. HUBER) "Structural Basis for Antigen-Antibody Recognition", see pages 702-703.	1-11 and 21
A	BIOTECHNOLOGY, Volume 4, issued April 1986, (New York, New York, U.S.A.) (J. VAN BRUNT) "Protein Architecture: Designing From the Ground Up", See pages 277-283.	1-11 and 21

* Special categories of cited documents: [15]

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

IV. CERTIFICATION

Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search [*]	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report [*]
19 NOVEMBER 1987	1 0 DEC 1987

International Searching Authority [1]	Signature of Authorized Officer [10]
ISA/US	Jayme A. Huleatt

VI. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION
IS LACKING (ATTACHMENT)

Group I, claims 1-11 and 21

Group II, claims 12-20

Group III, claim 26

Group IV, claim 27

A single inventive concept was not presented by these claims for the reasons outlined in Form PCT/ISA/206 mailed Oct. 22, 1987.